



**FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE**

Daily Report

East Asia

**FBIS-EAS-89-245
Friday
22 December 1989**

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-89-245

CONTENTS

22 December 1989

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Ambassador to Panama Reportedly To Return [KYODO]	1
More Reportage on Reaction to Romanian Situation	1
Recall of Envoy Considered [KYODO]	1
Kaifu, Nakayama on Events [KYODO]	1
Statement Issued [KYODO]	1
KYODO Correction to Protest Against Romania	2
Freeze on PRC Aid Reportedly To Loosen [KYODO]	2
Editorial on Dispatch of Forces to Philippines [OKINAWA TIMES 15 Dec]	2
Officials React to Possible Withdrawal of Marines	3
Governor Welcomes Report [OKINAWA TIMES 17 Dec]	3
Party Leaders Comment [OKINAWA TIMES 17 Dec]	3
Defense Outlays Likely To Fall to New Low [KYODO]	4
DSP's Nagasue in E. Europe; Proposes Coalition [KYODO]	4
Komeito Leader Rejects Coalition With LDP [KYODO]	5
Opposition Challenge to LDP, Results Viewed [KYODO]	5
LDP Decides on Escort for Plutonium Shipment [KYODO]	6
Government, LDP Plan To Impose New Tax [KYODO]	6
MITI Finalizes Tax Plan To Boost Imports [KYODO]	6
Bank of Japan To Maintain 'Cautious' Policy [KYODO]	7
Bank, Finance Ministry To Consult on Rate Hike [KYODO]	8
Finance Ministry Comments on IFC Contribution [KYODO]	8
Government To Make More Items Duty-Free [KYODO]	8
Steel Exports Likely To Plunge in Final Quarter [KYODO]	8
Doctor Allegedly Linked to Red Army Wins Suit [KYODO]	9

North Korea

U.S. Invasion of Panama Denounced Abroad [Pyongyang Radio]	9
Agreement Reached on Many Issues in N-S Talks [Pyongyang Radio]	10
South Urged To Attend 22 Jan Red Cross Contact [KCNA]	12
North-South Sports Talks Resume in Panmunjom [Pyongyang Radio]	12
Anniversary Service Held for O Chung-up [Pyongyang Radio]	12
Series in Daily Examines Challenges to Socialism [KCNA]	12
Special Article Assesses Decade's Achievements [Pyongyang Radio]	15
Correction to Foreign Ministry Statement	22

South Korea

Comment on U.S. Military Action Against Panama	22
Termed 'Reckless Act' [HANGYORE SINMUN 19 Dec]	22
'Right' Motivation Cited [THE KOREA TIMES 22 Dec]	23
Students Plan Attacks; Cite 'Invasion' of Panama [YONHAP]	24
Some Agreements Reached in 22 Dec Sports Talks [Seoul Radio]	24
Series Examines Peninsula Disarmament Issue [HANGUK ILBO 12, 14, 15 Dec]	25
Shippers Criticize Decision on Soviet Transport [THE KOREA TIMES 22 Dec]	27
JSP Delegation Arrives, Official Comments on Ties [YONHAP]	27
Chongwadae Talks on 5th Republic Criticized [HANGYORE SINMUN 17 Dec]	28

Prime Minister, Deputy Reportedly Offer To Resign [YONHAP]	29
Kim Yong-sam Terms Opposition Split 'Dumb' [YONHAP]	29
National Assembly Concludes Regular Session [YONHAP]	29
Political Detainees Reach Record Number in 1989 [YONHAP]	30
Testimony by Chon 'Unlikely' by Year's End [YONHAP]	31
Police Break Up Sit-in; Hyundai Workers Walk Out [THE KOREA TIMES 22 Dec]	31

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commentary Views Impact of CPM Surrender [Kuala Lumpur International]	32
---	----

Singapore

Spokesman Expresses 'Concern' Over Panama Events [Singapore Radio]	32
Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Succession [AFP]	32
Opposition MP Raises Malaysia Spying Case [AFP]	33

Cambodia

SRV Residents Urged To Register for 'Safety' [Bangkok THE NATION 21 Dec]	34
Sam Sundoeun Addresses SRV Army Celebration [Phnom Penh Radio]	34
Tie Banh Speaks at VPA Meeting Held 21 Dec [Phnom Penh Radio]	35
Lao Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Visit [SPK]	36
Indochina-ASEAN Journalists Seminar Closes [SPK]	37
Hun Sen Briefs Svay Rieng on Situation [SPK]	37
VNA Reports 'Calm,' 'Firm' Situation in Nation	37
Defense Communique on 12-18 Dec Combat Success [Phnom Penh Radio]	38
Question of Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk Explored [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 22 Dec]	39
District Seat in Oddar Meanchey 'Liberated' [Radio VONADK]	40
VONADK Urges People, Soldiers To Surrender	41
Resistance Official Explains Sihanouk's Stance [Radio VOK]	41
Reaction to Rogachev Statement on Concessions [Radio VODK]	42

Laos

PRC Border Trade Delegation Arrives 19 Dec [KPL]	43
Meets With Sali Vongkhamsoo [KPL]	43
Meets With Sisavat Keobounphan [KPL]	43
U.S. Assists Houa Phan Development Project [KPL]	44
Paper Analyzes Coup Attempt in Philippines [Vientiane Radio]	44
Leaders Greet CSSR Counterparts 15 Dec [KPL]	45
Kaysone Phomvihane Receives Thanks From Ceausescu [KPL]	45
Oudom Khatti-nga Receives SRV Youth Delegation [KPL]	45
CPV Control Committee Delegation Arrives [Vientiane Radio]	45
PASASON Commemorates Vietnamese Army Day [KPL]	46

Philippines

Further Reaction to Panama Events Reported	46
Aquino Responds to Reporters [AFP]	46
Department Studies Issue [Manila Radio]	46
Speaker Urges Recognition [Manila Radio]	47
Column on New Regime [PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY 22 Dec]	47
Editorial Criticizes U.S. [PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE 22 Dec]	48
Government, Rebels Declare Holiday Cease-Fire	49
Communists Issue Directive [PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE 21 Dec]	49
Montano Opposes Measure [Manila Radio]	49

Military To Be on Alert [AFP]	50
Aquino Approves Declaration [Manila Radio]	50
Reportage on Activities of Communist Rebels	50
Raid Town in Quezon [MANILA BULLETIN 19 Dec]	50
Skirmishes in Agusan, Aurora [PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE 19 Dec]	51
Radio Reports Update Situation in Mindanao	52
Security Tightened [Manila Radio]	52
Uprising 'Dissipated' [Manila Radio]	52
Government Closes Davao Radio Station [MALAYA 18 Dec]	52
Intelligence Chief Testifies on Military Support [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 15 Dec]	52
Column Advocates Military Budget Cuts [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 19 Dec]	53
Constabulary Chief Knew About Coup Plan in July [Quezon City Radio]	54
Congressman Names Four Possible Coup Leaders [Quezon City Radio]	54
Opposition Leader Cites Rebels' Lack of Agenda [Manila Radio]	54
Survey on Emergency Declaration Publicized [Quezon City Radio]	55
Ramos Asks Critics To Await Cabinet Revamp [Quezon City Radio-TV]	55
Debate Continues on Controls on Media	55
Defense Department Comments [Manila Radio]	55
Congressman Criticizes Guidelines [Manila Radio]	55
Editorial on Alleged Inaccuracies [PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 19 Dec]	55
Paper Views Shutdown Threat [PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE 19 Dec]	56
Government-Business Task Forces Approved [Quezon City Radio-TV]	57
Government Signs Loan Accord With ADB [BUSINESS WORLD 19 Dec]	57
Large Loans From IMF, World Bank Expected [Quezon City Radio]	58
Gross Capital Formation Down in Third Quarter [BUSINESS WORLD 19 Dec]	58
Government Tax Collection Above Target [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 15 Dec]	59

Thailand

Editorials Comment on U.S. Action in Panama	60
Paper Criticizes Use of Force [BANGKOK POST 22 Dec]	60
Publication Urges Troop Pullout [MATICHON 22 Dec]	60
Killing of Civilians Questioned [SIAM RAT 22 Dec]	61

Vietnam

PRC 'Condemned' for Air Base on Paracels [AFP]	62
Cooperation With Soviets Expanded in Building [Hanoi Radio]	62
Cooperation Pacts Signed With Ukraine Delegates [VNA]	62
Cartographic Agreement With Foreign Countries [VNA]	62
Vo Chi Cong Addresses Assembly Head Delegates	62
Installment One [Hanoi Radio]	62
Installment Two [Hanoi Radio]	64
Vo Chi Cong Speaks at Military Award Ceremony [Hanoi Radio]	67
Vo Chi Cong Letter to VPA Cadres, Combatants [Hanoi Radio]	68
Party, State Leaders Attend VPA Meeting [Hanoi Radio]	68
Do Muoi Addresses Meeting [Hanoi Radio]	69
1989 Rice Output Tops 20-Million-Tonne Mark [VNA]	71

Japan

Ambassador to Panama Reportedly To Return

OW2212003289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0004 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan will send its ambassador back to Panama as soon as possible, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday night. Earlier Thursday, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama announced Japan's tacit support for the U.S. military attack on Panama, saying Japan "understands" the U.S. position although it regrets the use of force.

Ambassador Junpei Kato returned to Japan on leave in mid-October but was ordered to remain in Tokyo as a sign of Japan's official "displeasure" over strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega's policies.

The Foreign Ministry official, who was speaking on condition of anonymity, said Kato was returning to his post for the protection of Japanese nationals in Panama. He indicated that Japan has no immediate plan to recognize the newly-installed Panamanian Government, saying the government must show its ability to rule the country following the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Foreign Ministry officials said the U.S. has called on Japan to recognize the new government of President Guillermo Endara, which was installed shortly before the U.S. launched its military attack on Panama Wednesday night.

More Reportage on Reaction to Romanian Situation

Recall of Envoy Considered

OW2112155589 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT
21 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Japan will consider recalling its ambassador in Bucharest along with European Community (EC) nations, a top-level Foreign Ministry official said Thursday. Referring to the EC nations' decision to recall their envoys from Romania, the official, who asked not to be named, told reporters Japan should join the West European countries in protesting the reported military suppression of an antigovernment rally in the western Romanian city of Timisoara.

Britain, West Germany, Belgium and Italy already have recalled or decided to recall their envoys from Romania.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed "grave concern" over the events in Romania and a senior Foreign Ministry official summoned the Romanian ambassador in Tokyo to the ministry for an explanation.

Kaifu, Nakayama on Events

OW2212045089 Tokyo KYODO in English 0421 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan on Friday condemned the armed suppression of antigovernment demonstrators in Romania and called on the government in Bucharest to halt the violence. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, speaking to reporters, expressed regrets at what he described as the "extremely serious" violence in the Romanian capital Thursday.

Japanese diplomats in Bucharest have confirmed 20 deaths in the aftermath of the military suppression of demonstrations in the capital, Japanese officials said. The total death toll in Bucharest alone Thursday is estimated at more than 100, they said.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said the Romanian ambassador to Tokyo, Constantin Vlad, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Friday to convey the Japanese message. Nakayama said Japan wants the Romanian Government "not to repeat the tragedy and to reflect on its actions."

"I wish to seriously criticize the Romanian Government" over the violence, he said. He said Japan is coordinating with its Western allies on possible sanctions against Romania in order to maximize their effects.

Japan wishes "to act in concert with the Western countries as much as possible" on the sanctions issue, he said. In addition to sanctions, Japan was also considering withdrawing its ambassador from Bucharest, he said. [passage omitted]

Statement Issued

OW2212124189 Tokyo KYODO in English 1224 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan on Friday denounced Romania's armed suppression of demonstrators in Bucharest as a "systematic denial of fundamental human rights" and threatened to take "appropriate measures" to express its anger.

"The actions taken by the Government of Romania to trample down by force the will of the Romanian people, who ask for freedom and democracy, is a systematic denial of fundamental human rights," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The statement was released amid reports from Japanese diplomats in Bucharest that soldiers have joined demonstrators and amid media reports that a former foreign minister has assumed power in Romania.

"The Government of Japan will study appropriate measures in close consultations with Western countries," the statement said, referring to possible sanctions.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said earlier in the day that in addition to sanctions, Japan is considering

recalling its ambassador to Bucharest in protest. Romania's ambassador to Japan, Constantin Vlad, in a meeting with officials at the Foreign Ministry, called Japan's criticism "unacceptable" and said it represents "an interference in Romania's internal affairs." He said the current turmoil in Romania, involving "irresponsible citizens," has been instigated from the outside and is an example of "imperialism." Romania is determined to defend its public order and will not permit outside intervention, the envoy was quoted as saying.

Takehiro Togo, director general of the ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, told Vlad Japan harbors strong concerns and regret over the Romanian Government's use of armed force in the Transylvanian city of Timisoara and in Bucharest. He called the bloody repression in Bucharest "a systematic denial of basic human rights" and said Japan strongly censures the action from a humanitarian point of view. Romania should halt repressive measures so as to prevent a repeat of such a "tragedy," Togo said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters later that while Japan is considering recalling its ambassador in Bucharest, a consensus has yet to be achieved on the issue among European countries. He said West Germany and Italy have already recalled their envoys but said Britain and France, as well as the United States, have not.

Watanabe said closing the Japanese Embassy in Bucharest would represent a "very strong" expression, but would hinder the government in its responsibility to look after the estimated 96 Japanese citizens in the country.

The Foreign Ministry issued an advisory recommending against travel to Romania by Japanese citizens.

KYODO Correction to Protest Against Romania

OW2012144089

KYODO supplies the following correction to the item headlined "Government Responds to Romanian 'Suppression'" appearing under the subhead of "Lodges Protest," published in the 20 December East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 2:

Column one, paragraph four, only sentence, make read: the crackdown had not been answered, the Foreign Ministry... [rewording]

Freeze on PRC Aid Reportedly To Loosen

OW2112164389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1435 GMT
21 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Japan will partially lift a freeze on the 810 billion yen package of assistance it promised to extend to China over a five-year period starting next April, government sources said on Thursday.

The Government of Japan is considering financing such Chinese projects as a telephone network and a fertilizer plant, the sources said. Japan will also resume exchanges of high-level government officials with China, suspended after the June crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, the sources said.

The Japanese decision follows in the footsteps of the United States which has sent two high-level officials to China and approved the sale of U.S.-made satellites to China.

Editorial on Dispatch of Forces to Philippines

OW1912053389 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
15 Dec 89 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Dispatch of U.S. Troops in Okinawa to the Philippines"]

[Text] It has been brought to light that in connection with the Philippine Army revolt, which broke out in Manila on 1 December, some U.S. troops stationed in Okinawa, including Marines, were dispatched to the Philippines. This was disclosed by Major General Stackpole, commander of the 3d U.S. Marine Expeditionary Force.

At the request of President Aquino, U.S. forces in the Philippines were called out for action during the Philippine mutiny. However, there also was some connection with the U.S. bases in Okinawa. The U.S. forces here were placed on alert, and reportedly, the Green Berets, a U.S. Army special force unit, was sent to the Philippines.

Although the general did not disclose the number of troops or the identity of the units dispatched to the Philippines, he said: "They include some of the units which regularly conduct operations or exercises in the Pacific along with the Navy."

The commander stressed: "The action was taken strictly to ensure safety and reinforce security at the U.S. Embassy and at U.S. military bases and facilities, not to support the Philippine Government forces."

The latest dispatch of U.S. forces from Okinawa to the Philippines has made the people of Okinawa Prefecture feel ill at ease, because it indicates the high possibility of Okinawa being assigned the role of an operational base in the event of an emergency.

The matter has been taken up at the prefectural assembly, which is currently in session. When Assemblyman Akira Nakane asked: "Is the dispatch overseas of U.S. forces from Okinawa not subject to prior consultation?" Governor Nishime offered the same explanation given by General Stackpole, basing himself on some reference made concerning the U.S. forces. He said: "No request was made to the national government for prior consultation."

According to the documents exchanged concerning the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, "any significant change or

changes in the deployment of the U.S. forces in Japan, any significant change or changes of equipment, or the use of facilities or areas in Japan as a base or bases for combat operational actions are subject to prior consultations."

The U.S. forces seem to believe that the latest dispatch of troops was not subject to prior consultation because it "was not meant to be direct participation in combat." However, the possibility of the troops being drawn into combat cannot be ruled out, even if they may have been dispatched only for security purposes. The military bases on Okinawa, where combat-ready units are permanently stationed, present a danger, and this runs counter to the desire of the people of Okinawa Prefecture for peace.

Officials React to Possible Withdrawal of Marines

Governor Welcomes Report

OW1912002789 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese Morning Edition 17 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] Commenting on a report that all U.S. Marine Corps troops on Okinawa would be withdrawn by 1995, Governor Nishime, on 16 December, expressed his surprise, saying: "I expected that the detente in U.S.-Soviet relations, as evident from the prodemocracy movement in Eastern Europe, would eventually have an impact on the Far East, but I did not expect that a concrete move would be made so soon. This is something Okinawa must welcome." The governor at the same time expressed strong hopes for the early realization of readjustment of the U.S. bases on Okinawa.

Governor Nishime added that when the complete withdrawal of the U.S. Marine Corps troops on Okinawa appears on the agenda at the Japan-U.S. talks, he "must think about incorporating in the Third Okinawa Development Promotion Plan the basic directions on the utilization of U.S. facility sites upon their return." He thus expressed the need to devise plans for the use of facility sites based on the expectation that they may be returned to Okinawa.

Governor Nishime has twice visited the United States in the past for the purpose of "making a direct appeal" to the U.S. Government regarding the question of the bases on Okinawa. He has called for an overall review of the U.S. armed facilities, demanding adjustments and reductions of the bases in general, the suspension of live ammunition firing exercises at Camp Schwab and Camp Hansen, and the return of Futenma Air Station.

More recently, noting the advent of a new era in U.S.-Soviet relations, he said: "It is possible that the United States will change its strategy even in the Far East." He has often expressed the following view: "There will most likely be no more direct deployment of U.S. Marine Corps troops to the Asia-Pacific region. If the Marines are withdrawn, incidents and accidents involving the military bases will decrease to nearly zero. For Okinawa, the Kadena Air Base alone is good enough."

Party Leaders Comment

OW1912014689 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese Morning Edition 17 Dec 89 p 2

[Remarks made by representatives of political parties in Okinawa regarding the ASAHI SHIMBUN report that the U.S. Armed Forces are studying plans for their reorganization, including the total withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Okinawa by 1995]

[Text] Chiken Kakazu, general secretary of the Liberal Democratic Party Okinawa Prefectural Federation: According to a mass media report, there is information that in view of the reduced tension in U.S.-Soviet relations, the U.S. Defense Department is studying the possibility of withdrawing the U.S. Marine Corps troops on Okinawa completely by 1995. If the report is true, I, as a prefectural resident, must welcome it. Our prefecture aims to establish its position as a tourist site through the establishment of international resorts. The presence of bases has been a major obstacle to our goal. The withdrawal of the Marine Corps troops will conform with our calls for the readjustment and reduction of bases, and will also lead to the effective utilization of land and the elimination of damages caused by the bases. Our party will take prompt action to confirm this report, and will make efforts to facilitate the total withdrawal of the Marine Corps troops.

Koei Neho, chairman of the Japan Communist Party Okinawa Prefectural Council: For our party, the information in the report is unconfirmed. Therefore, we have not been able to seriously study it. If the report is true, it will mean a change, but I do not think that the United States has abandoned its "power policies." In fact, study of the plan may show that our nation is getting drawn further into the U.S. strategy and exposing itself to the grave danger of being forced to bear a bigger share of the military expenses.

Our party aims to do its best to make Okinawa Prefecture a peaceful and good place to live, by demanding the dissolution of military blocs, the abolition of the Security Treaty, and the immediate suspension of the construction of Harrier pads and urban combat training facilities. We also demand that all military bases be withdrawn from the prefecture and that it be declared a peace-loving prefecture devoid of any nuclear arms.

Nobusuke Tomoyori, vice chairman of the Japan Socialist Party Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters: According to the report, the U.S. Marine Corps is studying plans to completely withdraw its troops on Okinawa by 1995. As a result of the recent U.S.-Soviet summit talks and the rapidly progressing prodemocracy movement in East Europe, the international situation is moving dramatically toward arms reduction and peace. I expected these developments to have an impact on the U.S. military bases on Okinawa sooner or later, and my expectations have become reality—that is how I feel. If the information is correct, then this is major news for prefectural residents who have suffered because of the

bases for such a long time. I think that we should make this an occasion to demand the elimination of all military bases on Okinawa. The prefecture must obtain accurate information on this matter, and should start to review what to do with regard to the bases concerned, including the question of workers currently employed by the bases.

Soko Shimabukuro, chairman of the Okinawa Socialist Masses Party: The Socialist Masses Party has always appealed for true peace in Okinawa, demanding the elimination of the U.S. military bases on Okinawa. The U.S. Marine Corps plans to withdraw troops from Okinawa probably because of the situation in East Europe. Perhaps the U.S. Armed Forces have no other choice but to withdraw from Asia. Another reason may be the large financial deficits the United States faces. Meanwhile, there is a move by the United States to try to convince the Japanese Government to take over its burden, as seen from the deployment of P3C aircraft in the 1,000-mile sea defense. We are firmly opposed to the Self-Defense Forces taking over this military burden after the U.S. Armed Forces have withdrawn, and it is our determination to fight until all military bases on Okinawa are gone.

Koshin Akamine, of the Komei Party Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters: The reported "withdrawal by 1995" is possible in view of the world trend toward detente. If the report is true, this will be most welcome news for the residents of Okinawa, who have been suffering because of the "military bases." As confirmed again when party chairman Ishida visited Okinawa in December, our party has been pushing for a "return of land" without having to provide substitute land.

What I wish to note at this time is that we are worried lest the land is left as is after the bases are withdrawn. The people have cooperated with the government on national policies regarding Okinawa. It is now the government's turn to provide adequate compensation until the use of the land is determined. This is also necessary for the development of the region.

Okitatsu Matsumora, chairman of the Japan Democratic Socialist Party Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters: Although it may be a report by a prestigious newspaper, it is such a surprise that I am still baffled by it. There's the perestroika in the Soviet Union and the accelerated democracy movement symbolized by the collapse of the Berlin Wall. There was the announcement "at the U.S.-Soviet summit at Malta on the conclusion of an agreement on the reduction of strategic nuclear arms in June 1990," with the summit followed by separate meetings of top leaders of the NATO and Warsaw alliances. The impression is that all these developments reflect a turning point in history and contribute greatly to improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Meanwhile, as everybody knows, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty contains provisions requiring "prior consultations" and exchange of official letters between the two

countries. That being the case, until there is an official announcement from both sides, I would like to refrain from giving my views on the ASAHI SHIMBUN report.

Defense Outlays Likely To Fall to New Low

OW2012192289 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Japan's defense outlays in fiscal 1990 are likely to fall below 1 percent of the gross national product (GNP) for the first time in four years, government officials said Wednesday. The officials said the defense buildup and related expenditures will be set at 4.16 trillion yen against the nation's GNP, estimated at over 410 trillion yen in nominal terms.

The government abolished the 1 percent ceiling at a cabinet session in January 1987. The officials said the defense budget, however, has since fallen below the 1 percent limit at the end of each fiscal year because of high-pitched economic expansion. The Economic Planning Agency estimated Japan's economic growth for fiscal 1990 at about 5.2 percent in nominal terms, against about 6.4 percent for the current year.

Agency officials said the defense expenditures would amount to 0.99 percent of the GNP both in fiscal 1989 and 1990.

The Defense Agency has requested 4,168.8 billion yen, up 6.35 percent over the current year, while the Finance Ministry tried to hold the growth rate to less than 6 percent.

DSP's Nagasue in E. Europe; Proposes Coalition

OW2112151789 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Bucharest, Dec. 21 KYODO—The leader of Japan's third largest opposition party Thursday proposed the formation of a coalition government between conservatives, centrists and some socialists.

Eiichi Nagasue, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), said neither the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) nor the four noncommunist opposition parties would be able to gain a majority in the next general election expected in February.

Nagasue, currently on a week-long visit to East and West Germany, Poland and Hungary since Sunday, said part of the ruling LDP and noncommunist opposition parties should form a coalition. He said leftwing elements of the Japan Socialist Party, the No. 1 opposition party, should be excluded from such a coalition.

Nagasue's remark represented a major departure from his party's previous position over the formation of a coalition government among the JSP, Komeito, DSP

and the United Social Democratic Party. Nagasue predicted that both the LDP and JSP will split after the election paving the way for a reappraisal of political parties.

The DSP will take the lead in forming a stable government with elements of the Liberal Democratic Party and Socialist Party. The parties involved need to agree on basic foreign affairs and defense policies and on abolition of the 3 percent consumption tax, Nagasue said. Nagasue said his party will not form a coalition with a party which calls for abolition of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Self-Defense Forces.

Komeito Leader Rejects Coalition With LDP

*OW1712115889 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT
17 Dec 89*

[Text] Tokushima, Dec. 17 KYODO—The head of Japan's second largest opposition party Komeito said Sunday his party will not form a coalition with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] as the general election nears.

"Our party will never shake hands with the LDP before or after the general election. I reject simple coalition," Koshiro Ishida told reporters here. He was responding to remarks by former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru of the LDP who earlier the same day advocated a major political realignment with the opposition camp.

The general election of the strong House of Representatives is likely to be held in February, Diet sources said.

Noting that Kanemaru's remarks seemed to stress political stability, Ishida said nothing will come of it if he meant nominal coalition with the opposition camp to maintain the LDP's dominance.

Ishida, a member of the House of Representatives from Aichi Prefecture, called on the largest opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party [JSP], to work positively to bring about stability in Japan's political world. "It is essential for us to keep up democratic discussions with the LDP and JSP at the center," he said.

The LDP suffered a major setback when it lost its majority in the 252-seat upper house in a July election, although it still maintains a commanding majority in the lower house.

Referring to the possibility of cooperation with the third biggest opposition group, the Democratic Socialist Party, to fight the general election, Ishida said the secretaries general and other officials of the two parties will reach an agreement to cooperate in several constituencies.

He also said Komeito will consider the possibility of introducing a proportional election system for the House of Representatives, as in West Germany. Ishida, however, expressed opposition to the introduction of a small

constituency election system, saying it would produce many "dead votes" and the citizens' will would not be properly reflected.

In the press meeting, he also announced the party's health and welfare program which, among other things, would give allowances to those ill in bed at home, and paid holidays to family members who have to take care of them.

Opposition Challenge to LDP, Results Viewed

*OW1712022189 Tokyo KYODO in English 1542 GMT
16 Dec 89*

[By Jocelyn Ford]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) faced the biggest challenge yet to its 34-year hold on government this fall as the first-ever opposition controlled House of Councillors ceased to be a rubber stamp and began to flex its muscle. But the most striking events in the Diet session that ended Saturday were more symbolic than tangible.

For the first time in Japan's postwar parliament, one chamber of the Diet voted for a woman to become prime minister. The vote for Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi was overridden by the House of Representatives, which has the prerogative in electing the prime minister, as well as in passing the budget and approving treaties.

Also for the first time, the opposition party proposed and then passed in the upper house a major package of tax bills. The legislation, aimed at scrapping the controversial consumption tax enacted last April, was in response to a campaign pledge that helped the opposition gain the upper hand in the House of Councillors' election last July. The bills never came up for debate in the lower house and were killed when time ran out.

In a more practical vein, the upper house blocked defense legislation, indicating that it will be increasingly difficult for Japan to meet U.S. demands to boost its military capabilities.

"I can't deny that it has become more difficult to pass defense legislation," said a Defense Agency spokesman commenting on the defeat of two bills seeking to increase the agency's staff. The bills, which would have boosted personnel by 559, were the only defense-related legislation debated during the session but analysts said the trend was likely to persist.

"As long as this situation of opposition control of the upper house continues, there will be less emphasis on defense," predicted Takeshi Sasaki, professor of political science at the University of Tokyo, at the close of the 80-day Diet session. Sasaki predicted the opposition would maintain its majority for at least six years, and probably into the next century.

On welfare, the opposition forced the LDP to drop a proposal to delay eligibility for receiving pensions to age 65 from age 60. But it failed to win approval of its bill to increase benefits for survivors of the World War II atom bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The opposition's new-found influence was acknowledged by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita who suggested shortly before the end of the session that a "partial coalition" will be necessary, even though he expects the LDP to win a majority in a general election likely to be held in February.

The most likely partners, the Buddhist-backed Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, have denied they would accept such a union, which analysts say would harm them at the polls. "The main result of the opposition victory was to make it impossible for the Diet to function as it has in the past," said Kazunori Wada, a member of the House of Councillors' Secretariat.

For most of the parliament's 44-year history, the upper house has served as little more than a rubber stamp. While the LDP often made minor concessions to opposition members to facilitate Diet proceedings, they tended to be little more than conciliatory gestures. With little chance of winning support for its own legislation, the opposition did not bother to submit major bills.

How smoothly legislation will proceed following next year's election remains unclear, however, with some analysts predicting a slowdown as new power alignments develop. "We are going into a new stage," said Prof. Sasaki. "There will be a number of changes in Japanese politics but the future is not clear."

LDP Decides on Escort for Plutonium Shipment

OW1912075689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0658 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—The Japanese Government decided Tuesday not to use a Maritime Self-Defense Force [SDF] ship to escort plutonium from Europe. The government will instead use a Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) ship yet to be constructed.

The decision resolves a dispute that reportedly split the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] parliamentary wing between those who believed the Defence Agency ship should be used and members who feared the use of the navy could create controversy over the role of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

Japan's Constitution renounces the right to use force to resolve international disputes, but its application to dispatching Self-Defence Forces overseas has not been clearly defined. Parliamentarians who favor the use of the Self-Defense Forces have said they fear Japan would be criticized for not exercising its full defense capabilities in the case of a hijacking.

Government spokesman Nobuo Ishihara said the dispatch of the SDF overseas would not violate Japan law

but he said the participants had agreed the MSA would provide adequate protection.

"The principle role of the Maritime Safety Agency is to prevent and quell crimes at sea," concerned cabinet members and executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said in a statement issued after a meeting arranged to hammer out a compromise between the government and the LDP. A government official said the decision avoided a legal debate that could have caused friction with neighboring countries, still sensitive about Japan's military ambitions 45 years after the end of World War II.

"I don't know the real intention of some parliamentarians, but this is not something we have to discuss at this time," said the official, who asked for anonymity.

According to Japanese law the Defense Agency chief may dispatch military forces at sea if he has a special reason but he must first obtain permission from the prime minister.

Government, LDP Plan To Impose New Tax

OW1812131089 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—The government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) plan to impose a tax on transactions involving futures and options starting next October, government sources said Monday. The measure, devised as part of tax reforms for fiscal 1990 starting on April 1, would tax 0.001 percent on the transaction value of each futures or options deal, the sources said.

The sources said the taxation plan will be incorporated in a package of tax reform plans to be issued Tuesday by the LDP's policy-making panel on taxation. The tax would be levied as part of the existing bourse tax, which is already applied to government bond futures traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange at the same rate and to a package of 50 stock futures on the Osaka Stock Exchange at a rate of 0.01 percent, they noted. The sources said the planned tax rate would have little effect on such transactions, because trading in futures and options involving stock indexes and other financial instruments has been growing steadily in general.

Banks and brokerage houses, however, have opposed such a tax, insisting that there is no tax like the nation's bourse tax that covers all futures transactions at the same rate. They also have complained that such a tax would make futures and options trading in Japan less attractive in comparison with similar deals abroad.

MITI Finalizes Tax Plan To Boost Imports

OW1912120189 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—The government on Tuesday finalized a plan to provide tax incentives to

boost imports over three years starting in fiscal 1990, which it hopes will result in an increase in imports of some 10 billion dollars during the period, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] said.

Under the plan, Japanese manufacturers who increase imports by more than 10 percent will benefit either from a tax deduction equivalent to 5 percent of the increased import value or being allowed to allocate a sum equivalent to 10 percent of the increase as tax-free money in their depreciation accounts.

Retailers and wholesalers will be allowed to reserve tax-free funds of up to 20 percent of the increased amount of imports to be used for the marketing of imported products.

The government's tax scheme to promote imports will be applied to a total of 2,300 industrial goods, mostly intermediary goods, with no import duties. Of the total, 1,000 industrial products will be officially added in the list of duty-free items Wednesday, when a meeting of the Tariff Council is scheduled. Imports of the 2,300 industrial goods account for some 50 percent of all Japanese imports each year, MITI officials said.

MITI head Hikaru Matsunaga praised the tax scheme, saying the measure will "drastically" raise imports while reducing Japan's massive trade surplus with foreign nations.

"I believe no other nations has launched such measures before, and the finalization of the plan shows Japan's commitment to import promotion," Matsunaga said. Matsunaga is expected to explain the tax incentive plan during his visit to the United States in early January.

The tax incentive plan is aimed primarily at reducing the bilateral trade imbalance with the U.S. with which Japan has been running a persistent annual 50 billion dollar trade surplus. However, a senior MITI official said it is uncertain whether the move will substantially improve Japan's trade surplus with the U.S.

Bank of Japan To Maintain 'Cautious' Policy

*OW1812115789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT
18 Dec 89*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Newly appointed Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Monday, at his first news conference as governor, that the central bank will maintain a cautious monetary policy while fostering ongoing international policy coordination.

Echoing his predecessor's oft-reiterated remarks, Mieno told reporters that the central bank will continue to manage monetary policy in a cautious and flexible manner, with the highest priority on domestic price stability. Mieno, the former senior deputy governor of the bank, assumed his new position on Sunday, succeeding Satoshi Sumita, who retired Saturday at the end of his five-year term.

In response to a reporter's question on his overall assessment over the current financial situation, Mieno emphasized the lingering potential for upward pressure on prices despite recent indexes showing that prices in general are in a stable range.

The new central bank chief described the recent currency movements as "still volatile," and expressed his hope that foreign-exchange rates reflect the fundamental economic strength of each country. "I believe (the currency rates) will not show a wild fluctuation over the long run in defiance of the most important economic fundamentals," Mieno told reporters.

Mieno, sharing the view of his predecessor, warned that the money supply growth rate remains high in light of Japan's real economic performance.

Commenting on the soaring land prices, the new governor said the central bank will continue its cautious stance toward excessive liquidity and commercial bank loans linked to speculative land transactions.

Renewing the central bank's wariness, Mieno urged financial institutions to exercise "more prudence" in their lending activities.

Mieno, meanwhile, pledged the bank's continued efforts to correct the huge external imbalances under the framework of policy coordination. He attached importance to coordinated moves among the major industrial nations amid the rapidly increasing liberalization and globalization of the financial area.

In this respect, the new top monetary official said, the domestic demand-led economic expansion Japan has currently been enjoying will certainly contribute to sustaining a healthy world economy.

Mieno, among other things, underscored the importance of maintaining closer ties with the Southeast Asian countries as part of the bank's role in the increasingly international arena. Mieno, as the head of the price watchdog body, emphasized that the central bank will positively respond to the changing economic and financial environment with a flexible attitude.

Mieno acknowledged that the appropriate monetary policy management of the central bank will become more difficult and require the utmost attention and effort. As for his own monetary policy, Mieno ruled out an immediate hike in the official discount rate, saying that now is the time for the bank to monitor the effects of the two base rate raises at the end of May and in mid-October.

Most of his remarks at the press conference were perceived to honor Sumita's standpoint, established after five years of painstaking efforts to overcome the adverse impact of the yen's rapid appreciation against the dollar.

Expressing one of his wishes, Mieno said he would like to continue to honor the policy of openness by the central bank that he said could lead to strengthening the bank's

stature both at home and abroad. In a pledge to maintain an appropriate and flexible monetary stance, Mieno indicated the bank will continue not to give in to outside pressures in managing its policy.

Mieno also told reporters the bank will do its utmost to preserve the value of the yen. The stance was welcome news to other major foreign countries that have been trying to stabilize foreign-exchange markets and dampen currency speculation, observers here said.

Bank, Finance Ministry To Consult on Rate Hike

OW2012031789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0051 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) will consult with the Finance Ministry to reach an early conclusion on a possible hike in the bank's official discount rate, a BOJ source said Wednesday.

"We have to move promptly to have an early conclusion because the credibility of the central bank is at stake at home and abroad," the source said.

The BOJ on Tuesday dismissed as speculation press reports that the central bank would soon raise the official discount rate now standing at 3.75 percent. The denial was made after Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto strongly denied the press reports.

"There is no change in our perception of the current monetary situation," the source said. Though there is no time limit, the matter will have to be decided sooner or later, he indicated.

The money market movement is "steady at present," the source said, indicating his understanding that market players have already digested the speculation on the rate hike.

Newly-appointed BOJ Governor Yasushi Mieno expressed strong concern over the current high levels of the money supply and a rise in land prices at a press conference Monday. He assumed the top BOJ post Sunday to succeed Satoshi Sumita.

BOJ sources on Tuesday said the central bank has decided to raise the rate by 0.5 or 0.75 percentage point within this week and will consult with the Finance Ministry. The BOJ had raised the rate twice this year, from a historical low of 2.5 percent to 3.25 percent on May 31 and to the current 3.75 percent on October 11.

The key lending rate is the rate the BOJ charges on loans to commercial banks and strongly affects money market rates.

Finance Ministry Comments on IFC Contribution

OW2012223089 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has agreed on plans to raise

Japan's capital subscription to the Washington-based institution, giving Japan the second biggest voice in the IFC, the Finance Ministry said Thursday. The agreement came at the IFC's board meeting in Washington Tuesday, a ministry official said.

The measure, still pending a vote sometime next year by the 133 member nations, would allow Japan to pay 23.74 million dollars in additional capital to the IFC, making its capital share 6.49 percent, the second largest, the official said.

The IFC is a World Bank affiliate that lends directly to businesses instead of going through government. A member's capital share determines its voting right in the institution. At present, Japan ranks fifth in voting rights with a 4.69 percent capital share, behind the United States, West Germany, Britain and France.

Government To Make More Items Duty-Free

OW1812130989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—The Japanese Government Monday reached a tentative decision to make industrial products currently subject to an import duty of 5 percent or below duty-free from fiscal 1990, official sources said. The sources said the new additions to the duty-free list would be centered on machinery subject to an import duty of 3.5 percent or below.

Duty-free products now total about 1,300 items, including passenger cars and synthetic rubber, out of a total of about 5,700 industrial products. The new move will bring the number of duty-free products to more than 2,000 items, the sources said. The number of duty-free products will likely account for more than 40 percent of Japan's total import value in fiscal 1990 and will hopefully allow Japan to reduce its trade surplus, they said.

A formal decision on the designation of duty-free products is expected at Wednesday's meeting of the Tariff Council after adjustment by the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The government will further launch an import incentive measure beginning in fiscal 1990 to encourage manufacturers and traders to step up imports, the sources said. The measure will give manufacturers who import duty-free industrial products the option of receiving a tax credit equivalent to a percentage of an increase in import value. Claiming additional depreciation up to a certain percentage of an increase in import value will also be possible.

Steel Exports Likely To Plunge in Final Quarter

OW1812111389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Japan's steel exports in the final quarter of fiscal 1989, ending next March 31, are likely to plunge 29.9 percent from the corresponding

quarter in fiscal 1988 to total 2.82 million tons, due to a steep decline in exports to China, the government said Monday. Imports of steel will likely remain unchanged at 1.21 million tons from the last quarter of fiscal 1988, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

Overall shipments of steel during the period are estimated at 21.77 million tons, down 1.6 percent from the same quarter of the preceding year and down 7.8 percent from the previous quarter, according to the MITI forecast.

Industry sources said steel exports to China started plummeting from 1986 due mainly to the country's import restraints as a result of a shortage of foreign currency reserves there. After peaking at 10.93 million tons in 1985, steel exports to China fell to 9.24 million tons in 1986, 5.85 million tons in 1987 and 4.93 million tons in 1988, the sources said.

Domestic production of steel goods during the fourth quarter will stay at 20.66 million tons, unchanged from the last quarter in fiscal 1988, MITI's data showed. The ministry forecast domestic crude steel production in January to March, meanwhile, will see a 0.7 percent fall from the same quarter of fiscal 1988 to 26.2 million tons. For the whole of fiscal 1989, total output of crude steel will reach 107.9 million tons, up 2.1 percent from fiscal 1988, the industry sources said.

Doctor Allegedly Linked to Red Army Wins Suit

OW1812141489 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT
18 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—The Tokyo District Court on Monday ruled against the Foreign Ministry's refusal to issue a passport to a female Japanese doctor who allegedly has worked as an informer to Japanese Red Army members in Lebanon. The ruling approved the appeal of the plaintiff, Dr. Takako Nobuhara, 49, to cancel the defendant foreign minister's refusal in 1983 to issue a passport to her. From 1971 to 1987 she served as a medical volunteer in Beirut and Syria.

Chief Judge Yasuyuki Suzuki said in Monday's ruling the court found that Nobuhara did not have a close relationship with the Japanese Red Army as the Foreign Ministry claimed and that the ministry's decision was illegal and lacked a factual basis.

Nobuhara served at hospitals of the Palestine Red Crescent (Red Cross) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and her five-year Japanese passport expired in 1975 when she was in Beirut. In 1982, when she moved from Lebanon to Syria with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), she applied for a new passport at the Japanese Embassy in Damascus. Japan refused the issuance the following year, saying the action was based on Japan's Passport Act, which says that the foreign minister can refuse to issue a passport to applicants who are regarded as harmful to the interests

or public security of Japan and "with a close relationship with the Japanese Red Army."

The Japanese Red Army is the clandestine leftist terrorist group against Japan, the United States and other Western powers. Its acts of terrorism included indiscriminate shooting and killing at Tel Aviv's international airport in 1972.

Nobuhara appealed to the court in 1983 through a lawyer in Japan. She returned to Japan in 1987 with one-way return permission issued by the Japanese Embassy in Damascus.

In Monday's ruling, the chief judge said a document containing the quotation of "a former related person" of the Japanese Red Army, submitted by the ministry as proof, lacks credibility. The ministry document said "a Japanese woman called 'doctor' was paying attention to the then-ongoing seizure by Red Army members of the French Embassy in The Hague in 1974 with top female army commander Fusako Shigenobu."

Upon receiving the verdict, the doctor expressed her joy and thanked her supporters. "I want to continue to try to understand the heart of the Palestinian people, and I wish to serve them again," Nobuhara said she chose to continue volunteer service rather than to apply for a new passport when it expired.

During the court battle, the Foreign Ministry argued that Nobuhara worked as information relay to Red Army members. Nobuhara admitted she had visited Shigenobu's apartment house in Beirut, but denied she was involved in any Red Army activities.

Shosuke Ito, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Passport Division, declined to comment on the verdict Monday, but said the ministry will consider whether or not to appeal to a higher court after consulting with other related agencies, including the Justice Ministry.

North Korea

U.S. Invasion of Panama Denounced Abroad

SK2212051089 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 1500 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] According to a report, people in many countries are resolutely denouncing the U.S. imperialists' brigandish armed aggression against Panama and are calling for an immediate halt to the act of aggression.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, in his letter of appeal sent to the heads of state, the UN secretary general, and the Organization of American States, denounced the U.S. armed interference against Panama as a wanton infringement upon the sovereignty and territorial security of Panama and a threat to peace and security in Latin America and Central America.

Brazilian President Jose Sarney, in a statement, resolutely rejected the claim of the U.S. Administration that

the armed invasion of Panama received prior consent from the governments of Latin America, and asserted that the dispute should be peacefully settled on the principle of self-determination and noninterference.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez, in a news conference held in the capital city, Lima, noted that innocent people were killed because of the U.S. armed interference against Panama, and proclaimed again the Peruvian Government's position denouncing this act of interference by the United States.

The Argentine Government issued a statement labelling the U.S. armed invasion of Panama as an open infringement upon the publicly acknowledged international principle of noninterference. The statement called for an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Panama.

The Mexican Government issued a communique calling for an immediate halt to the U.S. armed invasion of Panama. The communique said that the use of force by one country against another contravenes the principle of coordinating international relations, and noted that Mexico opposes use of force for the settlement of any dispute. The communique claimed that the U.S. armed interference against Panama should be reviewed by the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Colombian Communist Party, in a statement, exposed that the U.S. Administration waged an armed invasion of Panama to overthrow the legitimate Government of Panama and set up a puppet government obedient to the United States. The statement condemned the U.S. act, saying that it is a wanton violation of the existing Panama Canal Treaty and that it reveals the aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists who are scheming to continue to station the U.S. Armed Forces in the area of the Panama Canal after the year 2000 as well.

The Libyan People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, in a statement, stressed that Libya sternly denounces the U.S. armed invasion of Panama and noted that the U.S. armed invasion is an open infringement upon the UN Charter and the rule and principle of international law.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a statement, condemned the U.S. act of armed interference, saying that it is against the UN Charter and frustrates the positive dialogue for peace, cooperation, and mutual understanding that began in Central America. The statement called for an immediate halt to the U.S. armed interference against Panama.

Agreement Reached on Many Issues in N-S Talks

*SK2012101889 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 0800 GMT 20 Nov 89*

[Text] According to a news report filed by reporters Kim Myong-song and Han Kwang-to from Panmunjom, the fifth round of the preliminary talks for the high-level

North-South political and military talks started at 1000 this morning in the area of the South side in Panmunjom.

Participating in the talks from our side are five delegates, including head of the delegation Paek Nam-chun, counselor of the State Administration Council, and five delegates from the South side as well. Numerous reporters from home and abroad have come to Panmunjom to cover the talks. The talks discussed the issue of the name of the full-dress talks, the issue of the agenda of the full-dress talks, the issue of the composition of the delegations, and other pending issues.

When the talks were over, the head of our side's delegation, Paek Nam-chun, gave an interview to reporters and explained the status of the talks:

[Begin Paek Nam-chun recording] Today's fifth round of preliminary talks discussed issues over which both sides had failed to narrow differences in views prior to the fourth round of talks. To explain the conclusion first, agreement was reached in today's talks on many issues. However, agreement was reached with some difficulty. In other words, the views of each side had been continuously different from each other up until the fourth round of talks, and even in today's initial speeches, both sides insisted on different demands. Thanks to our sincere efforts not to indefinitely delay the full-dress talks even while wasting our time and energy, an agreement was reached on almost all of the remaining issues.

I will elaborate on today's discussions on one issue after another. First is the issue of the name of the talks. We advanced our original proposal of calling the talks high-level North-South political and military talks. This name, which indicates talks in which high-level officials of the North and South sitting face to face discussing political and military issues is complete, flawless, the best, the most reasonable, and just. However, also today, the South side advanced the proposal of calling the talks North-South talks between high-level authorities or as prime ministerial talks. Therefore, after removing all differences in expression and selecting something in common, as a compromise proposal, we agreed to call the talks North-South high-level talks. This was the result of a big concession on our side. This is also the result of our sincere efforts to hasten the start of the full-dress talks.

Next is the issue of the agenda of the talks. We proposed the agenda to be on bringing an end to the current political and military confrontation between the North and South. Our agenda is flawless in view of how these preliminary talks began; this agenda's significance in improving the North-South relations in reality; and the content of this agenda. However, in the previous fourth round of talks, the South proposed the agenda to be the issue of multisided exchange and cooperation between the North and South and the issue of bringing an end to political and military confrontation. In today's talks, the South side came up with the same proposal. Under

circumstances in which it was also difficult to agree on the issue of the agenda, we again advanced a compromise proposal—on bringing an end to political and military confrontation between the North and South and realizing multisided cooperation and exchange between them. The South side agreed on the inclusion of the issue of exchange and cooperation in the agenda. However, another difficulty was created. Let me discuss the relative importance of the political and military issue and the issue of cooperation and exchange.

When political and military confrontation exists, no exchange and cooperation can be realized. It is reasonable that the political and military issue comes first on the agenda. Also in the North-South joint statement, the political and military issue is followed by the issue of exchange and cooperation. Also in the preliminary talks, the South side advanced a proposal that consisted of six items. Exchange and cooperation was included in the third item, and the second item of the South side's proposal was the issue of political confrontation. This means that the South side also thinks and recognizes that the issue of exchange and cooperation is subordinate to the issue of political and military confrontation. Nevertheless, the South side proposed placing the issue of exchange and cooperation first.

Therefore, we said: It is reasonable to place the political and military issue first. The issue of exchange and cooperation is included in the political and military issue. Fortunately, this issue is placed on the agenda. Therefore, it is unreasonable to demand that this issue be placed in front. A precedent was set in the 4 July North-South joint statement on North-South relations. It has become a precedent to place the political and military issue in front and the issue of exchange and cooperation later. It is unreasonable to place the issue of exchange and cooperation in front.

The South side proposed that both sides choose the wording of the agenda at their own conveniences. This means: Our side chooses to adopt the issue of bringing an end to political and military confrontation between the North and South and realizing multisided cooperation and exchange, and the South side chooses to adopt the issue of realizing multisided exchange and cooperation between the North and South and bringing an end to political and military confrontation.

We said that it is not proper for the two sides to choose the wording of the agenda at their own conveniences in view of our sincerity shown in advancing our compromise proposal of including the issue, which does not deserve being placed on the agenda, in the agenda and in view of [words indistinct]. Therefore, we urged the South side to accept our agenda proposal in the next round of talks after studying it.

Next is the issue of including military leaders in each delegation. We said: The military issue is [words indistinct] a worldwide trend. Many conflicts are taking place throughout the world. The disarmament issue is a trend,

and the military issue is important. Military confrontation is very important in North-South relations. This issue is very [word indistinct]. Moreover, the military issue in our North-South relations has a characteristic that those of other countries do not have, that is, this is a very difficult and complicated issue. Under circumstances in which not only forces exist in the North and South but also the U.S. forces are based in South Korea, it is more difficult to solve this problem than the military issues of other countries. Therefore, we proposed that two military leaders be included in the seven-man delegation.

Then, the South side asked us to give them time to study our proposal. Therefore, [words indistinct]. We again advanced a compromise proposal. Our compromise proposal was: The number of military leaders should be set by each side at its own convenience on the condition that a person at the level of the chief of the general staff, or a person at the level of the chief of staff in case of the South side, be included in the delegation. The South side agreed to this. The two sides agreed that the number of military leaders be set by each side at its own convenience on the condition that a person at the level of the chief of the general staff is included in the seven-man delegation.

The next issue is the number of suite members. In the previous rounds, we proposed 70 and the South side proposed 40. Therefore, in the fourth round, we proposed 30 in an effort to immediately reach an agreement on this issue. However, the South side proposed around 30. Around 30 can mean more than 30 or less than 30. Because the South side advanced a vague proposal, our side said: Let us decide on around 30 but on the same number. We asked the South side how many would be appropriate. The South side proposed 35. Thirty-five would be around 40 if we round this number to tens. An agreement was reached on 33 suite members at our proposal.

Today, we presented a draft agreement. An agreement can be reached on other matters if we discuss them based upon this draft agreement. We concluded today's talks after deciding that we take time to study issues and that the South will present a draft agreement in the next round of talks, and that the two sides will organize separate contacts, for example, contacts between working-level delegates, to discuss wording because the two sides' views on the remaining issues are almost identical.

To sum up today's talks, I think that [words indistinct] due to our side's positive and sincere attitudes. As for the date for the next round of talks, we proposed 18 January because we will be busy in early January. Also, the lunar New Year's Day will fall some time in late January and the parliamentary talks will be held in late January. The South side proposed 14 February. We said: The first, second, and third rounds of talks were held at a 20-day interval, and the next rounds were held at a 40-day interval. How can the talks be held at a 2-month

interval? Therefore, an agreement was reached that the sixth round of talks will be held on 31 January. This is all. [end recording]

South Urged To Attend 22 Jan Red Cross Contact

*SK2112153089 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1515 GMT 21 Dec 89*

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA)—Pak Yong-su, head of the North side's delegation to the North-South Red Cross working-level contact, urged once again the South side to come out to the 8th round of the North-South Red Cross working-level contact on January 22, 1990 in the Red Cross humanitarian spirit and from the compatriotic stand, instead of avoiding the settlement of humanitarian problems by taking issue with the revolutionary opera "The Flower Girl" which offers no problem.

He stressed this in his telephone message sent to his South Korean counterpart Song Yong-tae today.

Recalling that the South side, to our regret, in its telephone message December 15, persisted in its unreasonable stand of avoiding contact with us, demanding a change in our side's art performance program as the precondition, the message said:

This is a rude act against the common sense and an unjustifiable act rejecting the Red Cross working-level contact itself.

As we explained to your side on several occasions, our revolutionary opera "The Flower Girl" fully accords with the principle of the content and form of the art performance agreed upon between the sides. Your side has no reason or ground to make an issue of it.

The art performance program is, by nature, not a question to be discussed at the North-South Red Cross working-level contact.

What the sides are required to do is to choose a program which accords with the principle of the content and form of the art performance agreed upon between them and inform each other of it a week before the exchange of the visiting groups.

And our revolutionary opera "the Flower Girl" has been acclaimed in Japan, France, Italy and other Western countries. Taking this into consideration, your side can win nobody's sympathy in taking issue with it.

If your side fails to respond to the North-South Red Cross working-level contact, putting forward unreasonable precondition, at a time when multi-channelled dialogues between the North and the South are making progress in full scale, bearing fine fruits, it will be held fully responsible for the delay of the settlement of the humanitarian problems between the North and the South including the exchange of the second Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups.

North-South Sports Talks Resume in Panmunjom

*SK2212013989 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 0110 GMT 22 Dec 89*

[Text] According to a news report by reporter Kim Myong-song from Panmunjom, the sixth round of North-South sports talks to discuss the question of forming a single team of the North and the South to participate in the 11th Asian games is being held at Tongilgak in our side's area in Panmunjom.

The talks are attended by five delegates from our side, including chief delegate Kim Hyong-chin, vice-chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee, and by five delegates from the South side.

A large number of reporters at home and abroad gathered to Tongilgak to cover the talks. The talks continue.

Anniversary Service Held for O Chung-up

*SK2012010889 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2200 GMT 17 Dec 89*

[Excerpts] A central memorial service was held at the People's Palace of Culture yesterday on the 50th anniversary of the death of communist revolutionary fighter Comrade O Chung-up who remained boundlessly loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. [passage omitted]

Present on the platform were Comrade Yon Hyong-muk; Comrade Pak Song-chol; Comrade Kim Yong-nam; Comrade Kye Ung-tae; Comrade Chon Pyong-ho; Comrade Choe Kwang; Comrade Han Song-yong; Comrade Hyon Mu-kwang; Comrade Hong Song-nam; Comrade Kim Pok-sin; Comrade Chong Chun-ki; Comrade Kang Hui-won; Comrade Choe Tae-pok; Comrade So Kwan-hui; Comrade Kim Chung-nin; Comrade Kim Yun-hyok; Comrade Kim Hwan; Comrade Kim Chang-chu; Comrade Yun Ki-pok; Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Chong Sin-hyok, first vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party; and responsible functionaries of the party and government organs and the working people's organizations and fighters of the anti-Japanese revolution. [passage omitted]

General Comrade Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Central Committee Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, made a memorial address. [passage omitted]

Series in Daily Examines Challenges to Socialism

*SK2212045689 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0401 GMT 22 Dec 89*

["Let Us Vigorously Advance Along the Road of Socialism, Repulsing the Challenge of the Imperialists, says NODONG SINMUN"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today devotes the first and second pages to an article headlined "Let Us Vigorously Advance Along the Road of Socialism, Repulsing the Challenge of the Imperialists."

This lengthy article under subtitles "The Imperialists Are Doomed To Face Judgement by History" and "Uninterrupted Revolution Alone Leads to Victory of Socialism" strongly denounces the imperialists who have of late got more heat [word indistinct] than ever before in slandering socialism, vociferating about the "decline of socialism" and "victory of the free world," behaving impudently on their high horse, and calls for making the uninterrupted revolution without the slightest vacillation under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence, the banner of socialism.

Before running about indiscreetly, which does not become their position, the imperialists should coolly trace back the course of their crimes which have stained human history with shames and vices and ponder over their unavoidable doom, the paper warns, and says:

The grave crimes committed by the successive imperialists against mankind cannot be erased with anything and they deserve stern judgement by history. Nevertheless, the imperialists, covering up their history full of crimes, are today disguising themselves as friends and protectors of people and spinning out the preposterous lie that the capitalist exploiter system is ideal society of mankind.

The paper says it true that capitalism has brought about a historical change, but whatever change there may be, capitalism remained and remains capitalism and nothing else.

Exposing that the mouthpieces of capitalism are never weary of boasting of the capitalist countries being "rich," it remarks that as far as the "riches" of the exploiter classes are concerned, the working masses had bitterly experienced their filthy nature even before they got free from the exploitation and oppression by capital.

The imperialists, instead of boasting of their "riches," must pay dearly for the grave crimes they have committed by monopolizing the material wealth created by the working masses and squandering it for inhuman purposes, thus insulting the working masses who produced it by the sweat of their brow and putting curbs on the development of society, says the paper.

Noting that the imperialists commit grave crimes of debasing people morally, it says although the imperialists shamelessly pretend to be "champions of human rights" and "defenders of democracy," they are the very violators of political liberties and rights of the popular masses.

The daily stresses:

With the capitalist exploiting system left intact, political life, economic life and ideological and cultural life

cannot be developed in a balanced way. A decadent material life, a poor mental life and a reactionary political life are incurable diseases which will accompany capitalism to its grave. In a nutshell, capitalist society is a corrupt and ailing old society.

The only effective prescription to cure the fatal disease of the capitalist society and achieve world peace and common prosperity of mankind is to liquidate the capitalist exploiting system and advance toward socialism.

Referring to the ever more undisguised anti-socialist moves of the imperialists, the paper says:

The modern imperialists who are internationally allied with the U.S. imperialists as the chieftain, are trying more desperately to turn back the flow of history from capitalism to socialism and directing the sharp edge of attack to the socialist countries, the bastion of peace and progress.

The essence of the strategy of the modern imperialists against socialism is, in a word, to stifle socialism by military threat and blackmail, economical buying over and ideological and cultural disintegration.

Owing to the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists, in the international arena a fiercer struggle is going on between progress and reaction, between socialism and imperialism, in all fields of politics, economy, ideology and culture, and the cause of socialism which has won victory for victory is facing a grave challenge.

Historical facts, however, show that the unceasing attack on the part of the imperialists to wipe out socialism has always met a miserable fiasco and socialism has been tested and has grown to be a more powerful existence. No force on earth can check the historical process of the turn from capitalism to socialism and the victory of socialism and downfall of imperialism are likewise inevitable.

Saying it is the precious truth we learned in the protracted revolutionary struggle that one can become the master of everything if he fights valiantly for the cause of justice and will lose everything if he surrenders, the daily stresses that the only way is to oppose imperialism, firmly adhere to the principles of socialism and carry on the revolution.

Our party's general line of strengthening the people's power and constantly enhancing its function and role and dynamically pushing ahead with the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, gives an all-round exposition of the main strategical targets to be attained in the building of socialism and communism and the fundamental stand which must be maintained and ways for their realisation, the daily says, and points out:

We will, above all, continue intensifying the struggle to capture the material and ideological and political fortresses of communism in accordance with the general line of our party.

In building a communist society it is imperative, above all, to resolve the problem of remoulding man, the master of society, along communist lines, the daily says, and goes on:

If ideological liberalization is permitted in socialist society, failing to distinguish this fundamental difference between the socialist and the capitalist society, it will entail grave consequences of destroying the ideological and political unity of the masses and disrupting the socialist society itself.

The cause of socialism will not go bankrupt merely because the economic and technological development is retarded a little. But socialism will cease to exist when the ideological fortress of socialism and communism is pulled down and people come to lose their faith in the cause of socialism as a result of the neglect to make the ideological revolution.

To hold fast to the position of the working class and continue the class struggle against the enemies of the revolution—this is the fundamental requirement of the general line of our party for the building of socialism and communism.

To intend to step back from the revolutionary position of the working class, arguing that the working class "is going out of existence" on the ground that the workers engaged in physical labour decrease in number, far from awakening and revolutionizing the working masses, is no more than an opportunist stand to justify surrender to imperialism.

The daily further says:

We must heighten vigilance against the crafty attempts of the imperialists to paralyse the function of the people's power, a weapon of the revolution and the class struggle, under the cloak of "defence of human rights" and "democracy."

The imperialists attempt to undermine the political foothold of the people's power and deprive the popular masses of the government by instigating them to oppose the people's power and socialism under the pretext of "freedom of speech."

If we were taken in by such flowery words as "freedom of the press" and "defence of human rights" brought forward by the enemy with a sinister intention to overthrow socialism and restore capitalism, and gave up the people's power gained at the cost of blood to the enemy, failing to effectively use it as a revolutionary weapon, there would be nothing more foolish than that. Concealing their aggressive nature, the imperialists style themselves "apostles of peace and humanitarianism" taking the "position for whole mankind" and twang the harp of "cooperation" and "reconciliation."

The daily stresses:

How can one expect that the imperialists may give up their stand against socialism if we discard the revolutionary stand of the working class and they will reciprocate our adherence to humanitarianism? If one gives up the class struggle against capitalism taken in by rhetoric of the class enemy, forgetting the bitter lessons in the past when people were deceived, trampled and killed through generations, it will be a cursed act of insulting the revolutionary forerunners who dedicated their precious lives to freedom and liberation and going against the expectation and wish of a large number of grudge-bearing oppressed peoples. The working class and other popular masses who seized power must under no circumstances abandon the principles of the acute class struggle whose truth has been proven in the protracted bloody struggle, but continue the class struggle against imperialism and other class enemies till they have won the final victory of the cause of communism.

Saying the socialist system can be properly managed and operated and its advantages fully displayed only by socialist methods, the daily says it is, therefore, an important problem after the establishment of the socialist system to liquidate bureaucratic ruling method, the legacy of the reactionary exploiting society, and to establish a popular system and method of work in keeping with the intrinsic requirements of the socialist society.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song set it as an important task to establish the socialist system and method of work right after the establishment of the socialist system in our country, created chongsan-ri spirit, chongsan-ri method and a new work system called taean work system, their embodiment. This was an immortal contribution to the cause of socialism and communism as he was the first to successfully carry out the historical task of establishing the work system and method suitable to the intrinsic nature of the socialist system.

The daily says what is most important in giving play to the superiority of socialist society is to strengthen the party's leadership.

It stresses:

There are political pluralism and multi-party system in capitalist society because the interests of classes and social strata contradict each other. But they cannot be allowed in socialist society where the popular masses are united in one socio-political organism. If political pluralism and multi-party system were allowed in socialist society they would bring grave consequences: Anti-socialist force may come to the fore and destroy the political unity of the popular masses and fundamentally demolish the socialist system.

The key to making the masses powerful beings and soundly developing social life as a whole on the socialist and communist principles lies in strengthening and

developing the party, the leading, hardcore force of socialist society, in a healthy manner and enhancing its leadership role.

The daily stresses in conclusion:

The rockfirm political and ideological unity of the masses achieved in our country today is based on an all-people political life which has become universal and a daily routine, and herein lies the source of the indestructible might of our people for triumphantly advancing through whatever trials and difficulties.

If anyone asks wherein the source of our indestructible strength lies and what the key to our victory is, we will answer without hesitation. It is that our people have continued with the revolution without the slightest vacillation, holding aloft the banner of anti-imperialism and independence, the banner of socialism, along the road indicated by the immortal *chuche* idea, singleheartedly united behind the party Central Committee headed by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Special Article Assesses Decade's Achievements

SK1812085089 *Pyongyang Domestic Service*
in Korean 0717 GMT 8 Dec 89

[NODONG SINMUN 8 December special article: "Our People's Great Pride in Having Added Luster to the Eighties"]

[Text] Before long, we will be entering the road of a new march into the nineties. At present, when the chronicle of the revolution has changed and a much brighter future is developing before us, all our party members and working people are filled with great pride and self-respect as they recall with deep emotion the entire course of the eighties which has been proudly embroidered under the wise leadership of the party and the leader.

In the history of our fatherland, it was thoroughly demonstrated that the eighties constituted an era in which the might of the unity in one mind of our people firmly rallied around the party and the leader. It was an era in which an unprecedented epochal change was brought forth in creation and construction in the magnificent great march of construction. It was also a time in which socialism took root more deeply and the resolve of our party and our people determined to carry out the revolution in our own style under the banner of the *chuche* idea was more firmly solidified.

The eighties, which was embroidered with extraordinary events in the history of the struggle of our people to realize the cause of modeling the entire society on the *chuche* idea, will tell the greatness of our party forever and shine forever.

1. The eighties is a glorious era in which the most brilliant victory and success have been attained in our people's struggle for socialism and communism.

Under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, the socialist construction of our country has steadily and vigorously progressed. In this history the eighties shares a very important position, for this era is a historical period in which a new upturn has taken place in the struggle to model the entire society on the *chuche* idea.

In the eighties our people waged a vigorous struggle to implement the decisions of the sixth party congress, strengthening the political and economic might of the country in every way and demonstrating the honor and dignity of the *chuche* Korea to the entire world. In the eighties, we also vigorously accelerated the great march of socialist construction, developing the great heyday of building creative structures which was unparalleled in the history of construction in our country. Truly great are the successes we attained in the eighties in all fields of the revolution and construction under the leadership of the party and the leader. These successes include the acceleration of the revolutionization, working-classization, and intellectualization of the entire society; the *chuche*ization, modernization, and scientization of the people's economy; the development of education and culture; and the enhancement of the people's living. We may well feel great pride and self-respect in having achieved this amazing victory.

The eighties is, above all, a significant era in which the political and ideological unity and cohesion of our party and the revolutionary ranks have been exceedingly strengthened and in which the honor and dignity of the *chuche* Korea have been thoroughly demonstrated to the entire world.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The unity and cohesion of our party have been enhanced to a new higher standard today. The entire party membership is firmly united around the party Central Committee and it is united ideologically and volitionally based on the *chuche* idea.

The eighties is a historical time during which our party's sixth congress was held. Because the sixth party congress was successfully held, the center of the unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks has been made more immutable, providing a firm guarantee for us to inherit from generation to generation the proud tradition of our unity as one mind which was formed during the era of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and has been continuously solidified and developed. This means that our people's ardent desire to uphold the central party generation after generation with inheritable unity and cohesion has been brilliantly realized, and it is the most commemorative event we can rightly boast of in the world.

With the sixth party congress as a turning-point, the cohesion and unity of our revolutionary ranks, which have met a new era of transition in their development, have been endlessly strengthened over the entire course of the eighties.

During this period, our people were able to further solidify their determination to share the fate of the party to the end under the refined leadership of our party which takes responsibility for the fate of the fatherland, nation, and revolution and which wisely leads in the front of socialist construction.

Especially, our party saw to it that new revolutionary changes took place in the middle of the eighties in the work of closely rallying the broad masses behind the party by thoroughly carrying out the mass line. This was an epochal event in further strengthening the cohesion and unity of our revolutionary ranks.

In the process of embodying the guideline of the party to intensify at a higher level the work with the broad masses in accordance with the new demand of revolutionary development, our party members and workers were able to feel with all their hearts that the bosom of our party is indeed the bosom of their mother, which bestows the noble political life of all the people and which endlessly illuminates it. Also, their confidence in truly following and admiring the party and the leader was further enhanced.

Today, the cohesion and unity of our revolutionary ranks have reached the highest level either in the steadfastness of its center or in its organizational and ideological solidness.

In our country, the leader, party, and the masses are rallied by close bonds of kinship on the basis of revolutionary ethics and comradeship, and the whole society is becoming a living organism in the true sense of the word.

In the long history of the revolutionary movement, there were many people who aspired to unity and many facts were recorded on the might of unity. However, we do not know of any other country, other than our own country's great cohesion and unity, in which all the party and all the people are armed with one ideology, think with one thought, and move according to one command.

The height of the level of cohesion and unity of our revolutionary ranks in the eighties, which have been endlessly consolidated and developed, can be clearly seen from the festivities that were held during this period.

In our country, numerous grand festivities were held in the eighties, including the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland, the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the party, the 35th and 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, and the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students.

These political events were not only festivities which were unprecedented in terms of political and ideological level, scope, organizational spirit and disciplined character, and form, but were grand political festivities that showed the invincible might of the unity of our revolutionary ranks in which the party, the leader, and the people are firmly united with one heart and mind.

There is no power in this world that can block the unity of our revolutionary ranks which has been emphasized over decades, while overcoming all kinds of trials in history. We will endlessly demonstrate the dignity of the chuche fatherland with the might of this invincible wholehearted unity.

The history of our fatherland in the eighties is also a significant decade in which the unshakable determination and will of the whole party and the entire people to carry out the cause of socialism in our own way by holding high the banner of the great chuche idea have become all the more solid.

The entire course of our revolution, which spans over half a century, is embroidered as a glorious history which has been vigorously marching forward by holding high the banner of the chuche idea.

There was never a time in the history of our long-term revolutionary struggle such as the eighties, when the passion to carry out the revolution in our own way was overfulfilled in the whole society and when the firm determination and will of our people to endlessly illuminate the dignity and honor of socialism was clearly displayed.

It is closely related to the fact that in this period our people have keenly felt from their practical experiences in life and the reality of the revolutionary movement in our times that the road of carrying out the revolution in our own style under the banner of the chuche idea is precisely the most just road and that the infinite glory and prosperity of the country and the nation lie precisely on the road of invariably defending the banner of socialism.

The imperialists' vicious maneuvers to block the advance of socialism have reached an extreme in the eighties in particular. Noisily clamoring about the superiority of capitalism and the collapse of socialism, the imperialists, with the U.S. imperialists as their bosses, have unprecedentedly strengthened ideological, cultural, and economic offensives against the countries that are building socialism. In the eighties, too, our people have advanced, as in the past period, holding aloft the banner of the chuche idea, without the slightest faltering in defending the dignity of socialism.

We have smashed the imperialists' reactionary ideological and cultural offensives with our revolutionary ideological and cultural offensives. Whenever the imperialists have clamored about the development of the capitalist market economy we have firmly adhered to the stand of more firmly strengthening the foundation of self-reliant economy by further enhancing the superiority of the planned socialist economy. In a nutshell, whenever the imperialists have viciously perpetrated their antisocialist maneuvers, we have advanced by holding higher the banner of the chuche idea, the banner of socialism.

Thus, our people have resolutely struggled under such a principled stand. As a result, our people have been able to firmly defend the eastern outpost of socialism and to fully demonstrate the superiority of the socialist system of *chuche* even under the difficult circumstance in which they have had to struggle, directly competing with the U.S. imperialists, the ringleaders of the imperialists of the world.

Today, our country has been changed into the people's paradise, literally a better place in which to live. Firmly united around the party and the leader, all of the people live happily, helping and leading each other and enjoying an independent and creative life to their hearts' content. This is the real appearance of our society today. In our society there are no social evils such as homicides, burglaries, alcoholism, and narcotic addiction. Also, there are no disgraceful people who seek only money and their own interests.

Through such a proud reality in our society, which cannot be even thought of in the capitalist society, our people now keenly feel how superior socialism, which we are building today, is. It is only too clear that all sorts of old and reactionary sophistries spread by the imperialists cannot fool our people. Our people's faith which has been firmly deepened amid the vortex of history to defend the banner of socialism, and our people's faith which has taken root deep in the might of the fatherland and its rewarding life in the eighties—that have been further strengthened and flowered more fully than in the past—cannot be blocked by any force. The eighties in the history of our party and people is a period of creation and construction, a period of the grand construction march, during which socialist construction has been vigorously pushed ahead and, as a result, numerous great monumental edifices and creations have been built everywhere in the country. In the 10-year period of the eighties a great victory has been won in socialist construction in our country. In the course of implementing the grand socialist economic construction program set forth by the sixth party congress, production has rapidly increased, and the foundation of our country's socialist self-reliant national economy has been further strengthened.

By brilliantly fulfilling the Second 7-Year Plan, holding aloft the banner of the three revolutions and adding the speed battle to Chollima under the correct leadership of the party, our people not only have occupied another peak on the road leading toward socialism and communism, but have also registered a great success in the fulfillment of the Third 7-Year Plan, a more grand socialist economic construction program. Self-reliant power base and raw material and fuel bases have been firmly provided in our country today, and our industries have been developed into mighty industries which can outstandingly ensure the necessary conditions for production of modern production facilities, including such extra large-type forging facilities as 20,000-ton press forging and large-type oxygen separators.

A great upsurge has also been effected in agricultural production in the eighties. As a result, the goal of 10 million tons of food grain crops has been achieved. The electrification of railway transportation, too, has been vigorously accelerated, and, as a result, it has entered a finishing stage. All successes we have achieved in the struggle to accelerate the socialist economic construction of the eighties are indeed amazing, and are unimaginable under the capitalist society. In particular, these successes can be regarded as incomparably great and proud successes, considering the fact that they have been achieved under the difficult circumstances in which the danger of war has been constant because of the unscrupulous maneuvers for aggression by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and in which, consequently, it has been impossible to concentrate main efforts only on economic construction.

In particular, by waging a heroic struggle, upholding and following the party's grand construction plan for the eighties, our people have recorded a new chapter of creation and construction in the history of construction in our country. This is an unprecedented event in the history of our country's construction. Our people have completed the construction of the gigantic Sohae Lock-gate—for which over 4.5 billion won were required—in a very short period of 5 years with our own design, technology, and materials. Thus, they have fully demonstrated the might of the *chuche* idea and the gigantic economic potential of our Republic. They have also carried out numerous and unprecedentedly large-scale construction projects, including the first phase construction project of the Suncheon Vinalon Complex, the second expansion project of the Kim Chaek Iron Complex, the construction of the northern railroad, which has a length of more than 6000-ri [one ri = 3.9273 km], and the construction of the third ore dressing site of the Kumdok Mining Complex, which has the capacity of 10 million tons.

Changgwon Street, Kwangbok Street, the 1 May Stadium, the Grand People's Study Hall, the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel, and the 105-story Yugyong Hotel, which, have been magnificently and splendidly built in Pyongyang city, the capital of the revolution, and other excellent streets and proud edifices, large and small, which have been erected everywhere in our country, demonstrating the grand appearance of our fatherland, are those creations which have been built mostly in the eighties. Indeed, in its history our fatherland has never witnessed such a period as the eighties, during which the whole country has seethed with the grand construction struggle and, consequently, so many monumental edifices and creations have been erected everywhere in the country. Because of this, the eighties will be recorded in the history of our people's struggle forever as the period of the proud grand construction march and as the period of rewarding creation and construction.

In the eighties, our people have achieved an historic advance in the struggle to expedite the independent reunification of the country, too, which is the supreme

task of the nation. Thanks to the constant efforts of our party and the government of the Republic, Red Cross talks, economic talks, and sports talks were held between the North and the South on many occasions in the eighties. Also, preliminary contacts for a joint North-South parliamentary conference and for high-level North-South political and military talks were held. With the 40th anniversary of national liberation as an occasion, the mutual visits of the Red Cross art troupes and home-visits were realized between the North and the South. Multilateral talks were held between the North and the South, and people, though on a small scale, visited Pyongyang and Seoul. This gave joy to fellow countrymen. In particular, student Yim Su-kyong visited Pyongyang at the time of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students. This further aroused the desire for national reunification among all youths, students, and people in the North and the South.

In South Korea today, people of all walks of life, including workers, farmers, youths, students, intellectuals, and religious persons, have formed democratic organizations for struggle and are vigorously waging the mass movement for reunification, vigorously shouting various slogans for their anti-U.S. struggle for independence and reunification.

This tells us that the struggle for national reunification in South Korea has been turned into a movement by a large number of people or majority, not a movement by a small number of people or minority; that it is being expanded into a mass movement of all walks of life, not a mass movement limited to a specific social stratum; and that it is developing into the struggle for the realization of reunification through confederation under the three principles of national reunification, not into the struggle merely for reunification debates.

If there had been no hindrance by the splittist forces at home and abroad in the eighties, the reunification movement, which has swept the whole area of South Korea, would have undoubtedly been turned into a nationwide grand national salvation march for reunification, uniting with the efforts for reunification of the people in the northern half of the Republic. The eighties is not only a period during which the fascist maneuvers by all splittist forces, including the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, have been completely laid bare before all the peace-loving people of the world and unanimously condemned by them, but also a historic period during which all the people in the North and the South have firmly changed the main stream in the development of the situation of our country into the direction toward national reunification through their active reunification movement.

Today, the splittist forces, including the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, have frantically attempted to fabricate two Koreas and are brutally suppressing the reunification forces. However, we will achieve the independent reunification of the country without fail.

The eighties is also an historic period during which the international solidarity of our revolution has been further strengthened. On the strength of the correct foreign policy of our party and the government of the Republic, the basic ideal of which is independence, peace, and friendship, and their active external activities, our ties of friendship and solidarity with fraternal socialist countries; nonaligned countries; and communist parties, workers parties, and progressive political parties in many countries in the world have been further consolidated, and militant solidarity with them has been strengthened.

The driving force of the great *chuche* idea which our people are holding aloft and the transformative significance of the *chuche* idea have become greater in the eighties, and numerous groups which study and spread the *chuche* idea have been organized in numerous countries in the world. The banner of the great *chuche* idea, the banner of making the world independent, has become the banner of struggle and victory of the revolutionary people of the world today.

In particular, with the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students as an occasion, the might of solidarity and unity of the new young generations who are struggling shoulder to shoulder for peace in the world and for the brilliant future of mankind has been unstintingly demonstrated, and the voices of the revolutionary people of the world which support our socialist construction and national reunification cause have been further raised. Indeed, the eighties is not only the glorious period which has recorded a most brilliant chapter in the history of our party and country, but is also the period which has been embroidered with great events and heroic exploits.

Our people can have due pride and honor on their having won the great victory in all fields of the revolution and construction in the eighties by strengthening the main force of the revolution by all means, by developing socialist economic construction into a high stage, by struggling to expedite national reunification, and by strengthening international solidarity.

2. That our people have been able to brilliantly adorn the eighties as a most significant period in the history of our fatherland is the noble fruition of the tested leadership of the party and the leader.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: Since the first day of its founding, our party has been constantly strengthened and developed through the difficult and complicated revolutionary struggle and has led our revolution on the single road of victory.

All victories and successes that our people have achieved in revolution and construction in the eighties are directly linked with the tested leadership of the party and the leader. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-sung, in the eighties, too, has wisely led our people with his energetic leadership, firmly grasping the overall tasks of the revolution and construction, including the

work of the party, the state, and the military; economic construction; national reunification; and external affairs. In the early eighties the respected and beloved leader convened the historic sixth party congress and elucidated the brilliant future road along which our party and people should advance. The great leader also convened important party and state meetings, including the plenary session of the party Central Committee, in a timely manner and inspected numerous plants, enterprises, rural areas. Thus, he has inspired our people to vigorously participate in the march of the eighties.

How energetic the great leader has been in the eighties to provide our people with greater happiness, is clearly proven even in the fact that he visited the construction sites of the Sohae Lockgate and the Suchon Vinalon Complex and numerous other plant construction sites and gave precious guidelines and teachings there. The respected and beloved leader's energy and efforts to develop our revolution into a higher stage by building more modern plants and enterprises, regularizing production at a high level, and implementing the theses on socialist rural economy are countless. Thanks to such tested leadership of the respected and beloved leader, who is leading all sectors and fields of socialist construction to victory based on the rich and abundant experiences that he has accumulated in his leadership of revolutionary movement for a long period of over 60 years, our people have been able to vigorously accelerate the march of the eighties and to record a glorious chapter, which is unprecedented in the history of our fatherland.

The revolutionary cause led by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is precisely the cause of our party, and all victories and successes achieved in the eighties are the noble fruition of the energetic activities of our party which is infinitely faithful to the great leader's ideology and leadership. Our party, assuming the responsibility for the destiny of the fatherland and the revolution, has led the march of the eighties to great victory and registered immortal achievements which will shine forever.

In view of the fact that in the history of our country the seventies was an historic period during which the organizational and ideological foundation of our party was firmly strengthened and the future destiny of our revolution was brilliantly resolved, the eighties shines as the glorious period during which our party unstintingly demonstrated to the world its might as the invincible party which can consummate the socialist and communist cause to the end, holding aloft the banner of the great *chuche* idea.

Our party has presented, above all, numerous unique ideologies, theories, and policies in the eighties and has brilliantly elucidated a shortcut along which our revolution should advance. Thus, our party has vigorously demonstrated the might as the party that can consummate the socialist and communist cause to the end.

The invincibility of the revolutionary cause is guaranteed by correct ideology and theory. The working popular masses, including the working class, can struggle with overflowing faith and optimism and consummate the revolutionary cause only when they have scientific ideologies and theories. The correct ideological and theoretical activity of the party becomes a more important problem as the revolution enters a higher stage.

In the eighties, too, our party, which has monolithically systematized the great revolutionary ideology created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and constantly developed and enriched it, has resolved numerous theoretical and practical problems presented by the times and the revolution by waging energetic ideological and theoretical activities.

Even through historical documents published at that time, we are clearly aware of how profound and diversified ideological and theoretical activities waged by our party in the eighties are.

In the eighties, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il put forward many monumental documents with historic significance including "On Further Improving and Strengthening the Party's Ideological Works," "On the *Chuche* Idea," "The Workers Party of Korea Is a *Chuche*-Type Revolutionary Party Which Inherited the Glorious Tradition of the Down-With-Imperialist Union" and "Let Us March Forward Dynamically Along the Road of Socialism and Communism Under the Unfurled Banner of the Anti-Imperialist Struggle."

Profoundly included in them are the great *chuche*-oriented ideological theories and methods—the ideological and theoretical asset in our era—and comprehensively compiled in them are rich experiences and clear steps whereby one can advance all domains and sectors along the single road of victory in the revolution and construction including strengthening the party and the government of the state, accelerating the economic construction and developing education and culture.

Thanks to such great revolutionary theories, our people could wage all together the struggle to occupy the ideological fortress and material fortress of communism by assuredly foreseeing the greater victory from the beginning of the eighties and could win the brilliant victory on all fronts of socialist construction.

The great ideologies and theories advanced by our party are a powerful weapon with which one can accomplish the socialist and communist cause along the straight road without any deviation.

The practical experience in our revolution shows that when we advance by firmly grasping our party's ideologies and theories, the main force of the revolution can be strengthened in every aspect and the people can be fostered into excellent communist revolutionaries. In addition, any difficult and complex problem raised in accelerating the revolution and construction can be successfully solved.

For this, the ideologies and theories of our party are demonstrating greater vitality with each passing day as an endlessly precious ideological and theoretical asset which will be brilliant forever with the advance of time.

In the eighties, our party, with bold operation and refined leadership art, fully demonstrated the might of the indomitable party capable of accomplishing the revolutionary cause of our era to the end, by seeing to it that the revolutionary upsurge will be effected in the socialist construction.

In order for the party of the working class to reform nature, society, and men in a revolutionary manner and to successfully build the communist society, it should carry out all works boldly and on a large scale. Courage to operate any work on a large scale and to push ahead in a lightning manner; the uncommon creative power to solve all problems in a fresh manner without adhering to existing concepts and outdated methods; the power of decision and persistence to settle what was decided and planned at any cost and by concentrating all capabilities—these are the most important characteristic in the refined leadership art of our party and a traditional attitude.

In the eighties, our party led the socialist construction struggle of our people at the vanguard with such revolutionary guidance methods. All policies and tasks accomplished by our party in the eighties are a reflection of the bold and large-scale ideas of our party.

Always putting forward lofty goals, our party wisely led our people in the struggle to accomplish them. Our party put forward a bold goal for fostering all members of society to become *chuche*-oriented communist revolutionaries with noble ideological and mental traits and temperament, and waged a large-scale operation to achieve the magnificent 10-point prospective goals of socialist economic construction elucidated by the 6th party congress. This shows the great leadership and courage of our party.

Even in recent years, our party put forward unprecedentedly great construction plans to build numerous large-scale monumental creations in a short period of time in Pyongyang and other areas across the country and energetically led the people so that they could push ahead with the struggle to accomplish them boldly and in a revolutionary manner.

Such courageous leadership by our party, which innovatively pushes ahead with all works, without any stagnation and stalemate, always gave the conviction of sure victory to our people and served as a decisive factor which enabled them to create amazing miracles in the revolution and construction.

Without our party's bold operation and refined leadership, we could not talk about the fact that each day of the eighties was linked to a continuous upsurge and that our people's mass heroism entered into a new, higher stage in which all members of society are becoming heroes nor

can we think of the fact that such a large number of great monumental creations as Sohae Lockgate and Sunchon Vinalon Complex were built rapidly.

Because our party's bold plans and operations have been thoroughly backed by the skillful organizational ability of inspiring the revolutionary zeal of all the people to the maximum, they always brought about brilliant fruition and gave birth to unimaginable, great miracles.

By putting forward numerous revolutionary slogans including "Let us all march for the accomplishment of the decisions of the Sixth WPK Congress!" "Let us advance to create the speed of the eighties!" and "Let us all live and struggle heroically!" and various policies for mass movement, our party vigorously inspired the entire party and all the people to the march of the eighties. This is clear evidence of our party's mass leadership art.

As long as the great party, which constantly expounds more magnificent operational plans for the greater victory in conformity with greater success it already attained and which is brilliantly pioneering the destiny of the fatherland and people, is standing at the vanguard, the history of socialist construction in our country will be embroidered with everlasting miracles and exploits.

In the eighties, our party advanced by consistently grasping the strategic lines for the socialist and communist construction put forward by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song with lofty revolutionary spirit. Thus, our party vigorously demonstrated the might of the party which is endlessly loyal to the leader's cause and capable of carrying out the revolutionary cause of the working class to the end.

In order for the party of the working class to accomplish the socialist and communist cause to the end by taking responsibility for the destiny of the nation and the people, it should remain endlessly loyal to the leader's cause. What is the most important in this is to advance by consistently grasping the strategic lines of the revolution put forward by the leader.

If the party fails to ensure consistency in the line while seceding and retreating from such principled lines and regarding the changed circumstances as an absolute trend, then the party will not be able to safeguard its revolutionary characteristics nor will it be able to lead the revolution and construction without deviation.

Today our party has lofty authority as the great guide who leads the socialist cause of our era, without even the slightest vicissitudes and it enjoys the absolute trust of the people. This is because our party regards the advance by consistently grasping the ideologies, theories, and strategic lines put forward by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song as a basic issue related to the destiny and future of the revolutionary cause, not showing even a slight wavering.

Such a lofty revolutionary spirit by our party has been fully demonstrated in the course of the struggle to lead the march of the eighties.

In the eighties, our party and people faced numerous difficult and complex revolutionary tasks. We had to tenaciously safeguard the banner of socialism under which we pioneered the road to prosperity for scores of years while resolutely smashing various maneuvers of the imperialists and their stooges and we had to extensively demonstrate the superiority of socialism in all domains.

Our party sought the basic key to resolving all important questions facing us by consistently grasping the scientific strategic lines for socialist and communist construction put forward by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, instead of attempting to seek it from any new revolutionary method or from any other place. Thus, our party constantly deepened such efforts.

As the socialist construction was pushed ahead, our party continuously upheld the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and the banner of independence, and further intensified the struggle to strengthen the party's leadership and the struggle to embody the Chongsanri method and taean work system.

Today the movement to win the red banner of the three revolutions and the three revolutions team movement have been organized and active at a higher stage and the unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks with the party and the leader as their center have been unprecedentedly strengthened. The socialist principle and collectivist principle have been excellently embodied in all domains including the social and economic life. All this is the precious fruition resulting from the consistent leadership of our party.

If our party had not consistently adhered to and thoroughly implemented the chuche revolutionary lines, our people would have inevitably suffered from bitter pain and turns and twists and they could not have firmly defended the oriental post of socialism.

Realities clearly show that a way to defend the honor and dignity of socialism and achieve the endless prosperity of the fatherland and the nation lies in invariably adhering to the revolutionary idea and lines put forth by the leader who pioneered the road of the revolution the first time.

Indeed, the eighties is a glorious decade embroidered with our party's energetic ideological, theoretical, and practical activities, tested leadership, and immortal achievements.

For this reason, looking back upon the entire course of the eighties shining with grand creative reform and brilliant victory, our people sincerely feel that there is no people in this world so happy and proud as our people who advance with the great leader [yongdoja] at the top of the party, the state, and the revolution.

The eighties will shine forever in the history of our fatherland as a decade which has given our people the firm faith that the party and the leader are greater generation after generation and the lines of our socialist construction are the most just.

Trying to make the nineties shine with greater victory and heroic exploits by thoroughly embodying the idea of the party and the leader on the continuum of the revolution is our people's unshakable determination and will.

Today our revolution is entering an important phase, and our people will mount the high hill of the nineties before long. The nineties is a very significant decade in which a decisive turn will be effected in our people's struggle for the complete victory of socialism.

If we more loudly beat the drum of the revolution in this decade, a new turn will be effected in the struggle for the complete victory of socialism and the honor and dignity of our fatherland will be matchlessly higher.

We should give play to a high revolutionary spirit to greet a hope-filled tomorrow, which will be much better than today, and to put an end to the unbearable history of national division, which has lasted for as long as 40-plus years, in the nineties without fail. Everyone should create miracles and exploits to this end.

Above all, we should more firmly consolidate our political and ideological faith.

What our people should have at this moment on the point of launching the grand march of the nineties is the confidence that as long as there is the wise leadership of the party and the leader, there is no fortress they cannot capture and there is no difficulty they cannot break through and they should have the endless assurance that they are able to build a communist paradise in this land along the path which they chose and have pioneered.

To cherish this firm faith deep in their hearts, all party members and workers should more firmly arm themselves with the great chuche idea and sincerely grasp the greatness of our party. As a result, everyone should become a genuine revolutionary with solid chuche in his idea and an invincible revolutionary fighter to be demanded by the nineties.

A decisive key to attaining a greater victory in the nineties lies in the entire party and all people upholding the leadership of our party center.

As the revolution advances further, all party members and workers should further deepen the work of realizing ideological unitarianism and absolutely prevent any heterogeneous ideological element contrary to the party's idea from reaching us. As a result, we should strengthen and develop our revolutionary ranks into ranks endlessly loyal to the party and the leader forever.

A resplendent future has unfolded before us. Our people's faith in achieving greater victory in the nineties is firm.

We have the wise leadership of the party and the leader, the sturdy foundation of the self-reliant socialist economy on which we can more rapidly advance forward, and the superior chuche socialist system which has taken deep root in this land.

Only victory and glory will always shine before our people who are staunchly marching toward higher goals in the nineties in firm unity around the party Central Committee led by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Correction to Foreign Ministry Statement

SK2112233289

The following correction pertains to the item published in the 21 December East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 5, headlined "Foreign Ministry on U.S. Action in Panama."

Column one, paragraph one, second sentence should read: "...imperialist aggressors, mobilizing scores of armored personnel carriers and military planes... (clearing indistinct words, correcting "armored personnel carriers")

South Korea

Comment on U.S. Military Action Against Panama

Termed 'Reckless Act'

SK2112074489 *Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN*
in Korean 19 Dec 89 p 2

[Article by reporter Kang Song-ki: "An Infringement on Sovereignty Pours Cold Water on Detente"]

[Text] In a sense, the U.S. invasion of Panama carried out at dawn on 20 December was something that has been expected given the fact that the United States last year employed various kinds of means in attempts to oust Panama's anti-U.S. strongman, including giving assistance in two coup d'etat attempts. However, the world was simply stunned by the military act of infringing on the sovereignty of Panama undertaken by the United States which had stressed the need to work out political settlement of regional feuds after declaring an end to the cold war at the Malta summit last 3 December.

The armed invasion of Panama perpetrated by the United States has not only poured cold water on the trend toward detente, but it also will inevitably be denounced stingingly by international opinion as a reckless act that will generate tensions in the Central American region in particular.

Following the botched coup d'etat attempt that some of the pro-U.S. Panamanian military personnel tried on 3 December, the Bush administration has been substantially preparing for an armed invasion while strongly hinting at the possibility of using forces against Panama. The U.S. Congress and the U.S. press have also made a great contributions to this perception. By intensely criticizing the U.S. military for having failed to catch and extradite Noriega in the wake of the recent coup d'etat attempt, U.S. Congress and the press conjured up a strong impression in Americans that the arrest of Noriega was a natural thing.

The United States seems to have decided that it has successfully managed to turn public opinion in its favor by timing the launch of an armed invasion of Panama to coincide with the death of an American army officer who was killed in Panama on 16 December. Commenting on the reasons that have led to an armed invasion, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said: "It is not that the United States declared a war on Panama, but has just taken steps necessary to protect American lives in response to Panama's declaration that it was in a state of war with the United States."

Panama, however, insisted that the Western press was distorting the facts and that it was U.S. provocative acts that have led Panama to declare a state of war with the United States.

Even ABC TV, one of the U.S. television broadcasting services, on 20 December quoted lawmaker Henry Hyde, an influential U.S. Republican representative, saying: "At 0130 in the morning, Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Webster phoned us to inform us that the United States had launched a military operation and said that the military operation had been planned for 3 months now." This means that the reason cited by the United States for an armed invasion is groundless.

Commenting on the U.S. invasion of Panama, not only the Soviet Union and the Central American countries, but also some U.S. allies in the West view the military act critically, calling it an apparent infringement on Panama's sovereignty. Although the United States has carried out a series of military acts as part of retaliation for terrorist acts, catching the world unawares since the beginning of the eighties, including the air raid against Libya and the shooting down of an Iranian civilian passenger plane, rarely has it mounted an offensive by mobilizing tanks and fighters as it did against Panama this time. It proves that the U.S. Administration has its roots in the Reagan administration's foreign policy based on the "policy of power."

Why, then, has the United States chosen the same kind of armed invasion it employed against Grenada in 1983 in the face of international criticism? The United States cited Noriega's being a dictator and his deep involvement in drug trafficking as the reason for launching an armed invasion and, as always when interfering in third

countries, insisted that it was an act of assisting those fighting for justice and democratization.

However, Noriega, once on the list of U.S. CIA intelligence agents, is a figure who has been nurtured by the United States. In view of this, the true reason the United States tries to remove Noriega lies elsewhere.

According to experts, the biggest reason is that the United States has attempted to revoke the Torrijos-Carter treaty of 1978 which stipulates that the United States shall completely transfer control over the Panama Canal to Panama in the year 2000 and that Noriega has been in the way of this course.

According to its "formula" of operations toward Third World countries, the United States has so far applied to Panama the method of inflicting political and economic pressure and causing a pro-U.S. coup d'etat by taking advantage of disturbances. However, these attempts have ended with failure every time because Noriega has consolidated his power by relying upon nationalist forces within the military. As a result, the United States could not but directly involve itself in the Panamanian situation.

The transfer of control over the Panama Canal means that the United States will lose its economic interests in the canal zone and its Southern Command in Panama, a fortress for U.S. intervention in Central and Latin America. Under the situation in which the liberation movement has developed because of the aggravation of internal contradictions, such as the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the role of the Southern Command is absolute. Thus, it was urgently demanded that the United States maintain the command even by resorting to the force of arms.

In the course of this invasion, the United States attacked military bases and broadcast stations and had pro-U.S. opposition leader Endara, who ran for the presidential election last May, sworn in as Panamanian president and recognized his government as a legitimate government, thereby displaying the imperialist attitude of the past colonial era. The United States is likely to go through a considerable sacrifice for this, because the majority of anti-U.S. Panamanian masses will resist, in whatever form, the invasion of U.S. troops who infringed upon sovereignty and sacrificed scores of civilians.

The United States may be stuck in the "mud" again, depending upon how a militia numbering 7,000-10,000, which Noriega organized along with the nationalist military to counter the U.S. invasion, will act against it. Even though the United States may succeed in removing Noriega and maintain a pro-U.S. regime, it will be difficult for the regime to last long because of its weak foundation of support; and in this course, the mass movement of Panama will possibly develop in a more radical way.

This U.S. invasion can be viewed as an adventure aimed at regaining hegemony in this region when the strategic position of the United States has become weaker as a

result of the aggravation of internal disputes in El Salvador and the mounting pressure of many Central American nations to dissolve the contras. However, the reckless and anachronistic imperialist action of the United States will shatter the false image of the United States, which claims to support democratization in the Third World, and will deepen distrust toward the United States among Third-World countries.

'Right' Motivation Cited

SK2212023089 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Dec 89 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Military Action in Panama"]

[Text] The United States had the right motivation for taking actions against Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was indicted in the United States on drug smuggling charges in 1988. U.S. President George Bush, at last, sent troops and tanks into Panama City in an attempt to capture the Panamanian dictator. According to reports, Noriega is still at large.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater explained that the military operation was launched with the intent to apprehend Noriega and bring him to the United States to stand trial for drug trafficking, asserting that the situation in Panama had reached a crisis. Other plausible reasons for the U.S. military intervention Fitzwater pointed out were the safety of American lives in Panama, the integrity of the treaties under which the United States operates the Panama Canal and the restoration of democratic, constitutional order in Latin America.

When Noriega became the defense chief in 1983, he entered a honeymoon period with Washington but their mutual friendship began crumbling with the tightening of dictatorial rule and his alleged involvement in drug trafficking that led to the court accusation in Florida. He survived a series of U.S. punitive actions, including a halt to military assistance, and various diplomatic and economic sanctions as well as two domestic coup attempts.

Noriega nullified the presidential election last May in which his handpicked candidate apparently lost to opposition leader Guillermo Endara and rather consolidated his power in defiance of international censure. The U.S.-Panama confrontation culminated with Noriega's declaration of a state of war against the United States, rubber-stamped by the Panamanian parliament, and the killing of an unarmed American officer by Panamanian forces.

Bush's order for the military action thus came on the top of his constant frustration with regard to the Panamanian ruler who had thumbed his nose at the Americans. In particular, Bush was criticized for being indecisive in connection with the refusal of military assistance in a coup attempt in October. But Panama's declaration of a state of war with the United States provided a ground for counteraction.

It is surely a source of frustration not only for the American people but all people committed to human rights and democracy, that a haughty dictator go swaggering about without due restraint or punishment. Our immediate sympathy goes to the U.S. Government and its people, whose pride has been badly hurt and whose national interests are involved with the subtle development in the neighboring country.

Of course before taking such a radical action, President Bush seems to have given serious consideration to various options. But the question here is that the direct military attack on the Panamanian capital was the best available option. This problem can be appraised from not only the viewpoint of motivation but the results of the military adventure.

The question boils down to the U.S. infringement upon the sovereign right of Panama in view of international law and the taking of human lives from the humanitarian dimension. The U.S. action runs counter to prevalent views in Latin America, which opposed both the dictatorship of Noriega and military invasion to remove him, though mixed reactions have ranged from the Soviet Union's denunciation of the U.S. step to the United Kingdom's supportive statement calling it a courageous decision.

For whatever reason, the U.S. military intervention will stir up anti-American sentiment among South American states especially the OAS members, while bolstering the posture of the rebel forces in Nicaragua and EL Salvador as well as anti-U.S. Cuba.

Although the United States has steered the world toward an unprecedented era of detente, there are fears its leadership will dwindle vis-a-vis the Soviet Union which is bringing home its troops from Afghanistan, Vietnam, the Chinese border and elsewhere.

At the same time, this U.S. measure may unfortunately give some pretext for other countries to use their armed forces to translate policies into action or to further or protect their national interests. We dread to even imagine that the Soviet Union might send its troops into allied Eastern European countries in order to quell pro-democracy protests in support of the existing regimes.

Students Plan Attacks; Cite 'Invasion' of Panama

SK2212043089 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—Police have stepped up protection of U.S. facilities in Seoul after receiving a tip-off that student activists are planning attacks Friday afternoon to protest America's invasion of Panama. "We have obtained information that radical students belonging to the association of student representatives in Seoul intend to attack U.S. facilities, including the U.S.

Embassy and military depots, to dramatize their anti-Americanism and to protest the armed invasion of Panama," a police source said.

Police also increased guards at police stations and ruling party offices against possible raids by radical students, who may seek to retaliate for the arrest this week of fugitive student leader Yim Chong-sok, president of the outlawed National Alliance of Student Representatives.

Some Agreements Reached in 22 Dec Sports Talks

SK2212070289 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0500 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The sixth round of North-South sports talks for the formation of the single team for the Asian Games to be held in Beijing next year was held in Panmunjom today. We will connect you with reporter Paek Nak-pong who will give you a report over the telephone from the Secretariat of the North-South dialogue.

[Reporter Paek Nak-pong] At the sixth round of the North-South sports talks held at the Tongilgak in the North side's area of Panmunjom which began at 1000 this morning, progress was made to such an extent that agreement was reached by both sides, the North and the South, as to the issues of the place of installing the joint secretariat, the appointment of the head of the team, and the Chinese spelling of the name of the single team.

As to the place of installing the joint secretariat and its method of operation—a major stumbling block in the progress of the talks—the North Korean side agreed to our side's plan. Therefore, it was agreed that the joint secretariat will be established in Seoul and Pyongyang, providing a base from which the two sides can dispatch and permanently station the proper number of personnel.

As to the appointment of the head of the single North-South team, on which the North and the South had been in persistent disagreement, the North Korean side expressed their willingness to accept our proposal, thereby settling this issue as well. Originally, the North Korean side advocated the system of having a co-head of the team; but at today's talks, the North side began by insisting on system in which the North and the South would alternately head the team. Then there was a proposal for an honorary team head system and a proposal for appointing Mr Son Ki-chong as head of the team. Then, finally, the North side accepted our proposal that the head of the team be appointed from the side having the greater number of athletes selected, with the vice head of the team appointed from the side having the smaller number of athletes.

Meanwhile, the two sides agreed in principle to the Chinese spelling of the name of the single team—KARYEA in Chinese characters—as we originally proposed, thus completely settling the issue of the team's name.

The delegates of the two sides agreed to hold another round of working delegates' contact on 10 January next year and to hold the seventh round of full-dress talks on 18 January.

[Announcer] From your report, we can assume that the North Korean side made considerable concession, didn't it?

[Paek] Yes, it did. Today's talks ended at 1400. The delegates of the North-South sports talks, who have had six rounds of full-dress talks and three rounds of working delegates' contacts, had already agreed on the sports team's song, its flag, and its name; and at today's talks, with the concession of the North Korean side, they agreed on the place of installing the secretariat, the appointment of the team's head, and the name of the team.

The North Korean delegates who came to today's talks showed a positive attitude for the formation of the single team, agreeing to our proposal, without much difference of opinion, for the place of installing the secretariat, appointment of the team head, and the Chinese spelling of the team's name. However, the North Korean side showed an insincere attitude when our chief delegate (Chang Chung-sik) tried to read the formation and the method of operation of the joint promotion organization for the single North-South team, consisting of 10 pages, prepared by us, saying, "We agree whatever it is," and stopping chief delegate (Chang) from reading it.

This is taken as a doubtful attitude casting a cloud over the prospect of the sports talks. It seems that this implies that the North Korean side may shift all blame onto our side when it encounters a difficult problem after pretending to agree to our proposals for the time being.

Series Examines Peninsula Disarmament Issue *SK2112001089*

[Editorial Report] Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean on 12, 14, and 15 December carries a three-part commentary-type article by reporter Han Ki-Pong under the heading "Is Disarmament Possible on the Korean Peninsula?"

The first installment, carried on page 5 of the 12 December issue, is 1,200-words long. The article wonders "whether the Korean peninsula is a dead angle or not when it comes to disarmament" and says that "despite the global trends of moving away from the cold war framework and of surging toward an atmosphere of disarmament caused by Gorbachev's new thinking and changes now taking place in Eastern Europe, the Korean peninsula remains the only place in the world where the cold war atmosphere still prevails."

Citing an analysis by the Ministry of National Defense, the article says that "in terms of destructive power, the North and South now have at their disposal weapons that are 80 percent greater than the ones they had during the Korean war." After noting how lethal the weapons the North and South have at their disposal could be, the article says: "This being the case, disarmament is essentially a matter

of life and death for our fellow countrymen, though it may not be a precondition for reunification."

The article noted that the disarmament issue was discussed by the U.S. and Soviet leaders at the Malta meeting and says that disarmament is likely to become the dominant factor in shaping the international order in the nineties and that, therefore, the Korean peninsula, which is under U.S. and Soviet military influence, cannot be said to have nothing to do with disarmament. The article cites "the efforts for reunification, the government's promotion of its northern policy and dialogue with the North, the need to prepare for either reduction or withdrawal of U.S. troops from the South, and the growing pressure to draw down on defense expenditures as factors encouraging disarmament."

Stressing the need for North Korea to take disarmament seriously, rather than using it as an instrument in propaganda, and to overcome its daily-worsening economic trouble and diplomatic isolation, the article says: "In particular, the political and social changes that are expected to take place in the system following the death of Kim Il-song will awaken North Korea to the pressing need to accelerate disarmament. In this way, both the North and South find it urgent to participate in disarmament negotiations."

The article, quoting Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun's allusion to a future disarmament plan, says "in a sense, disarmament may already have begun on the Korean peninsula" and notes the "possibility of shrinking defense expenditures, which have been a burden on the nation's financial situation as a whole."

The article says: "Despite the countless proposals for disarmament by the authorities in the North and South, the negotiations over disarmament have made no headway, primarily because disarmament between the North and South is quite different in nature from that between the United States and the Soviet Union. Unlike the United States and the Soviet Union, the authorities in the North and South have never recognized each other as legitimate partners."

The article goes on to note that "political dialogue and negotiations take precedence over disarmament between the North and South."

The article says that "another main stumbling bloc to disarmament on the Korean peninsula is that the superpowers militarily involved in the Korean peninsula question find the status quo to be more in their strategic interest than disarmament." It continues: "That the South's military power is inferior to that of the North is, in fact, a factor that troubles the two sides."

Noting the need for both sides to build mutual confidence, the article says that "as long as the current atmosphere of distrust continues to prevail between the two sides, it is difficult to expect any progress in talks between the authorities of the North and South. Given the fact that the Korean peninsula is a strategically

important point where the interests of four major powers are interwoven, the confidence-building between the North and South requires not only the expansion of direct North-South dialogue and exchange but also cooperation among the four major powers in Northeast Asia over the Korean peninsula question as preconditions."

"Apparently," the article notes, "direct bilateral dialogue between the North and South alone is not expected to make any headway toward disarmament, nor can the two sides guarantee any success in the talks."

The article continues: "This being the case, what must be noted is that the North and South need a 'great strategy' to produce progress—if any—toward disarmament on the Korean peninsula."

The first installment of the article concludes: "It is high time for such government offices as the Defense Ministry, Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of National Defense, the Economic Planning Board, and the Agency for National Security Planning to jointly institute a unified office in charge of disarmament under the president's control."

The 1,200-word second installment, by reporter Han Ki-pong, is published on page 5 of the 14 December issue also under the headline: "Is Disarmament Possible on the Korean Peninsula?"

Referring to the positions of the North and South concerning disarmament, the article says that "the North and South, while steadily concentrating efforts on military buildup since the end of the Korean war, have put forward various proposals for relaxing military tensions." Describing North Korea's proposals for disarmament as "political propaganda ploys aimed more at taking the diplomatic initiative than at relaxing tensions in the true sense of the word," the article criticizes both the North and South for having put forth mutually unacceptable proposals. It continues to note the "boring verbal exchanges" that have continued for decades "between the North and South at Military Armistice Commission meetings at Panmunjom, the only military channels between the two sides."

Then the article says: "Nevertheless, disarmament is expected to make headway in the future," on the grounds that external conditions for disarmament and the internal atmosphere of the North-South dialogue are expected to mature in the nineties.

Explaining the South's stand on disarmament, the article says: "The South's proposals for disarmament are far fewer than those of the North, and it has adopted a step-by-step approach toward the disarmament issue," the essence of which is that the North and South should build confidence and abandon the use of forces before setting about on disarmament. The article continues: "The South's position is that it prefers summit talks and talks between prime ministers, in which all issues can be discussed, to negotiations arranged with the limited purpose of discussing military issues."

The article says that by this the South means to say that "the North is solely to blame where the arms race is concerned and, therefore, the North should first work out ways to build confidence."

Reviewing the stand taken by the North on disarmament, the article mentions North Korea's proposals for disarmament, including talks between military authorities holding real power, political and military talks, and tripartite talks in which the United States also would take part. After citing the proposals advanced by the North, the article says: "The essence of the North Korean proposals is to have U.S. troops withdrawn from South Korea, along with nuclear weapons; to have 'Team Spirit' stopped for good; to draw down the troops on both sides to a level of 100,000 men; to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement; and to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone."

The article continues: "What constantly runs through all the proposals put forward by the North is its intention to either restrict or reduce U.S. military activity in the South. Lacking in these proposals is an intent to compromise with the South's proposal for confidence-building and abandoning the use of force. The North calls for immediate disarmament before making any effort to build confidence between the North and South."

"The North, calculating that the trend in the future will be unfavorable for its military buildup, seems to believe that it can gain the upper hand if it discusses disarmament issues right away," the article says, "whereas the South takes a stand that such things should be discussed on a step-by-step basis, by linking them to political dialogue and confidence-building efforts."

The third and final installment of the article is published on page 5 of the 15 December issue. This installment addresses the steps of and prospects for disarmament on the Korean peninsula and says: "Even if the authorities in the North and South were to concur in the view that disarmament is necessary at present, they would have a great deal of difficulty in practically negotiating the issue because of the complicated situation involving the neighboring countries of the Korean peninsula and their basically different approaches toward the issue."

The article then cites "a treaty of nonaggression between the two sides" as first among the preconditions for disarmament; "instituting a working office to deal with disarmament issues" as the second condition; and "confidence-building" as the third.

Noting "confidence-building measures" as the most important of all conditions for disarmament, the article says that "since the South and the North maintain relations of a military alliance with the United States and the Soviet Union, respectively, disarmament on the

Korean peninsula is impossible without taking into consideration the positions and roles of the major powers surrounding it."

The article continues: "In particular, at a time when relations between such superpowers as the Soviet Union and China are warming and the United States and the Soviet Union are in a mood of detente, if the major powers abstain from supplying attack weapons to both the North and the South, it will prod the two sides to hold talks for disarmament, as a matter of course."

Stressing that as long as such conspicuously negative elements as the deep-seated distrust between the North and South and military assistance from major powers continue, the prospect for disarmament on the Korean peninsula is not bright, the article says: "In order to set disarmament in motion, there must be considerable change in North Korea's system and its leadership, and the issue of U.S. troops stationed in the South should be settled."

In conclusion, the article says that the South should also take possible measures toward this end, citing the "halting of 'Team Spirit,' a stumbling block to North-South dialogue; appointing a Korean general as senior member to the Military Armistice Commission; and accepting the North's proposal for political and military talks" as the foundation for disarmament.

Shippers Criticize Decision on Soviet Transport

SK2212021689 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Dec 89 p 8

[Text] Local shipping companies have criticized the government for its decision to allow Soviet ships to transport cargoes from Korea to the Soviet Union in marine containers manufactured at domestic yards prior to the opening of direct sea routes.

Sources at the Korea Maritime and Port Administration [KMPA] said yesterday that the government has accepted the soviet proposal to use the containers to transport necessities to the Soviet Union.

Soviet state-run Black Sea Shipping Co. (BLASCO) has dispatched two container vessels with a capacity of 400 forty-foot containers each to Pusan to transport soap, footwear and other daily necessities. One will arrive at the southern port tomorrow and the other on Jan. 2.

Twenty-foot containers will be shipped by a feeder vessel to Singapore port, where a larger vessel is waiting for the cargoes to relay them to a western port in the Soviet Union.

A KMPA official said the Japanese Navix Line has transported cargoes from Pusan to Nakhodka and Vostochny via a Japanese port. But cargo terminals have been congested in Pusan due to the lack of empty containers, he explained.

In this situation, the Soviet authorities requested the Korean government to allow Soviet shipping companies receiving empty containers manufactured at local yards to transport daily necessities in them, the official said, adding that it does not mean a unilateral opening of local shipping market to the Soviet Union.

But shipping circles complained that this measure will pave the way for Soviet shipping companies to continue the transportation of cargoes whenever containers manufactured by local makers are delivered to Soviet shipping companies.

The two governments have been negotiating the opening of direct sea routes between Pusan and the eastern Soviet ports of Nakhodka and Vostochny.

JSP Delegation Arrives, Official Comments on Ties

SK2112120989 Seoul YONHAP in English 1150 GMT
21 Dec 89

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) will maintain the basic treaty signed between the governments of South Korea and Japan in 1965 on the basis of the continuity of foreign diplomacy when it takes power in Japan, JSP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi said upon his arrival here for an official visit to South Korea.

Yamaguchi said, in a press conference held at the Kimpo International Airport, "The JSP acknowledges that the Republic of Korea (South Korea) exists as a state." The leader of the Japanese opposition party, which has long followed a pro-North Korea policy and refused to recognize the government in Seoul, also gave an indication of possible change in his party's policy toward South Korea by saying, "as a result of the division of the Korean peninsula, both the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are existing (separately) in actuality."

Yamaguchi, who came here along with five other JSP officials at the invitation of Kim Yong-sam, president of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party, said his party respects a view the relation between Japan and South Korea should start from "Japan's repentance over its past colonial rule which inflicted sufferings on the Korean people."

He and his party visited the March 1 monument at the Pagoda Park to pay tributes to the patriots who were dead in the course of independence movement under Japanese colonial rule.

The JSP delegation's intended visit here drew attention as it was the first official one ever sought by the Japanese opposition party. There once was a tension heightened between the South Korean Government and the JSP recently when the Foreign Ministry here threatened, in its initial reaction to the JSP delegation's plan to visit

Seoul, not to grant visas to the JSP delegates unless the Japanese party show conspicuous signs of change in its traditional Korea policy.

Chongwadae Talks on 5th Republic Criticized

*SK1812054089 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN
in Korean 17 Dec 89 p 6*

[Editorial: "Chongwadae Talks Immerse 'Liquidation of Fifth Republic' in Darkness—Ambiguous Agreement Cannot Help Achieve 'Political Stability'"]

[Text] The discussions among the presidents of four ruling and opposition political parties held at Chongwadae on 15 December resulted in the issuing of a "joint statement" noting that they had reached an 11-point agreement on particulars in order to settle the issue of liquidating the "Fifth Republic legacies" by the end of the year. However, such agreement seems to be merely a product of political negotiations greatly deficient in resolute determination for genuine "liquidation." By leaving most of the concrete liquidation work for the meeting of key party officials and the next extraordinary National Assembly session, the presidents of four parties showed their hasty intention to greet the 1990's by freeing themselves from the political burdens of the 1980's resulting from the "liquidation of the Fifth Republic."

The presidents of three opposition parties have far retreated from the resolute positions they showed before attending the talks. They entrusted the issue of the resignation of Rep. Chong Ho-yong, who has been noted as the person in the field responsible for the Kwangju massacre among six persons who were designated as the core figures of the Fifth Republic, to President No so that he will handle the case by "taking the demands of the presidents of opposition parties into consideration." This is indeed ambiguous, and the procedure for stern reproof for the tragic "June Kwangju incident" is excluded.

The agreement on Mr Chon Tu-hwan, who is totally responsible for the massacre, injustice, and irregularities perpetrated during the Fifth Republic, is indeed lukewarm. In other words, their agreement was that "they will induce him to testify before the National Assembly only once, and his testimony will be broadcast through recorded video tape and questions may be made in writing." Should this happen, instead of admitting his responsibility for the tyranny and oppression he perpetrated at that time and of being judged by the people for the liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies, Mr Chon Tu-hwan will explain in "a dignified manner" at a place "officially recognized" by "the political sphere" and will return to Seoul. Thus, his role in the 12 December coup; his infringement with guns and bayonets upon the "spring of democratization" in 1980, his crime of killing and injuring more than 2,000 fellow countrymen living around Kwangju; the mass dismissal of journalists and government officials, the background of barbarous training in the "Samchong Camp", the legislation of laws

designed for a coup by the Conference for Emergency Measures for National Security, the enormous illegal accumulation of wealth and irregularities of the Fifth Republic, and the behind-the-scenes story concerning political funds will be buried forever in the darkness of history.

It is unconvincing that the issue of testimony by former President Choe Kyu-ha, who must be more familiar with the background of the formation of the Fifth Republic than anyone else, is handed over to a meeting of key party officials. This can be interpreted as an intention not to hear testimony from Mr Choe.

The agreement on the decision to indict, through the Special Committee, Mr Yi Won-cho, who is reported to have collected questionable political funds and managed them, appears to be a tacit agreement to take no account of his act. It is hard to understand how the opposition parties, which claimed that unless Mr Yi resigns from official post the Fifth Republic legacies could not be liquidated, have now reached such agreement.

They also agreed to discuss in the extraordinary session of the National Assembly in February next year the revision and abolition of evil laws, including the National Security Law and the Agency for National Security Planning Act, which are the fundamental tasks in the judicial liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies; however, concrete measures as to how they will deal with them have not been announced. Furthermore, the bill to put the police on a neutral plane, which was prepared according to the agreement among the three opposition parties, has been withheld from the outset. An agreement was reached at the Chongwadae talks on "including long-term prisoners in the year-end amnesty to the extent possible" and on "jointly conducting the investigation by ruling and opposition parties into those people who disappeared during the era of the past government or whose deaths are still in doubt." This agreement may be seen as a visible success. However, this work is the least political decision from the standpoint of the conclusion described in the "joint statement" that "the ruling and opposition parties have agreed to exert their utmost efforts to consolidate the political stability." However, genuine "political stability" cannot be attained simply with a "virtuous mind".

We certainly understand the remarks by the presidents of the opposition parties that in order to reach an agreement with the other side at the talks, one should not insist merely on one's own assertions. However, their measures for liquidating the Fifth Republic legacies have been criticized for having already far seceded from their essential nature. Needless to say, therefore, the people will be greatly disappointed with these measures because they have lost even their substance.

It is anticipated that the intent of the political leaders to build a new political structure in the 1990's by regarding the "agreement" reached by the presidents of four parties at Chongwadae as a settlement in the liquidation of

the "Fifth Republic legacies" will face fierce criticism and protest from opposition movement forces, including the National Democratic Alliance of Korea. All people strongly demand the liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies because this is an inevitable task for democratization; however, this work has ended in smoke. Thus, it is quite natural that the opposition movement, which honestly represents the opinions of the popular masses, will launch active criticism.

Prime Minister, Deputy Reportedly Offer To Resign

SK2212042489 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and Deputy Prime Minister Cho Sun have offered to resign to President No Tae-u, saying they wanted to give him a free hand in carrying out state affairs and reorganizing the government, an informed source said Friday.

No is expected to partially change the cabinet lineup next week, when he fills two new cabinet posts—public information and environment. The posts will be created by upgrading public information function of the Culture and Information Ministry into the Public Information Agency and the Environment Administration, headed by a vice minister-level official, to the Environment Agency, led by a cabinet minister. The reshuffle may focus on economic ministers, who have been blamed for the much touted economic crisis, the source said.

The two expressed their intention to step down to No shortly after the President and the opposition leaders agreed last weekend to finish liquidating remnants of former President Chon Tu-hwan's rule by the yearend, the source said.

Kang, a retired army general, was a former university dean and ambassador to the United Kingdom. Cho was a professor of economics at prestigious Seoul National University. They joined the cabinet Dec. 5 last year in No's first major reshuffle. The second major reorganization of the cabinet came on July 19, when seven cabinet members, including the director of the Agency for National Security Planning, were replaced.

Kim Yong-sam Terms Opposition Split 'Dumb'

SK2112030089 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT
21 Dec 89

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Yong-sam, expressing quite different views from his fellow opposition party heads, said Wednesday night the four-party structure will surely lead South Korean politics into a "dark, insecure future."

"Next year, we will provide a new political plan which is focused on the realignment of the nation's opposition parties and follow-up political reconstruction," Kim,

president of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), said in an interview with the state-run Korea Broadcasting System.

For the remainder of the year, Kim said, the RDP will put all of its energy into the eradication of the negative legacies of the government of former President Chon Tu-hwan.

In sharp contrast, rival opposition leader Kim Tae-chung said a day earlier there is no reason for realigning the opposition parties. "The four-party system, though not so successful, has contributed to political progress to a considerable extent," he said in a news conference.

The RDP leader, however, said testimony by Chon in the National Assembly and the resignation of ruling party lawmaker Chong Ho-yong for his role as a special warfare commander in crushing the Kwangju pro-democracy uprising must take place within this year. "Chon's testimony had better be televised live instead of taped for later broadcasting simply because that is what he wants, though the latter is what the senior office holders of the ruling and opposition parties agreed," he said.

Lashing out at Kim Tae-chung for leaving the party and creating his own party right before the presidential election in 1987, Kim Yong-sam said, "by now, everything would have been far better, had it not been for such a dumb decision to split the party, dwarfing the otherwise strongest opposition."

As to local autonomy, which is due to be inaugurated next year, he said it is not premature but is belated and his party will see the local elections as crystal-clear signs for the general election and presidential race afterwards.

Asked about grooming a successor for his job, Kim said his party will keep raising up capable young leaders by allowing anybody to talk about anything, except things that harm the party.

National Assembly Concludes Regular Session

SK1912070589 Seoul YONHAP in English 0641 GMT
19 Dec 89

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—The South Korean National Assembly wrapped up its regular session of the year on Tuesday [19 December] by approving the 1990 budget. The 22.69 trillion won (33.8 billion U.S. dollars) was a trifling 336 billion won less than requested by the government as the budget had been pared down Monday by the budget committee.

The single chamber passed 28 other bills, including an amendment of the labor income tax law, and heard standing committees report on their inspections of government offices in a busy finale to the 100-day sitting.

Since convening in September, the National Assembly had acted on 106 bills, including three to limit private

land ownership. But bills on local autonomy, depoliticization of the police and amendment of the National Security Planning Agency Law were held over to the next extraordinary session.

Political Detainees Reach Record Number in 1989

SK1912012089 Seoul YONHAP in English 0028 GMT
19 Dec 89

[By Kim Min-chol]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—The number of people detained for national security reasons soared to record levels in South Korea in 1989, the second year of President No Tae-u's leadership. In late October, 646 such people were in custody, up 48 percent over a year earlier, the Justice Ministry reported to the National Assembly on Nov. 21. The average was 580 under the authoritarian rule of President Chon Tu-hwan.

Among those detained, whom dissident groups and some opposition figures call political prisoners or prisoners of conscience, 342 were charged under the National Security Law, and 91 under laws on labor-management disputes, up a stunning 260 percent and 460 percent, respectively, over last year.

The dramatic rise was a result of the activities of a "joint investigation headquarters" comprising agents of the prosecution, police and the Agency for National Security Planning. This special organization, established because the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan made it to Pyongyang without the government's knowledge, averaged four arrests per day from April 3 till June 19 for a total of 317. Several of the arrested were well-known dissidents who had been released on parole Dec. 21, 1988, when the government amnestied 2,015 people, including 281 "political prisoners."

Kim Hyon-chang, who torched the U.S. Cultural Center in Pusan in 1981 and was the first person in South Korea to chant "Yankee go home," was freed on parole. In August he was picked up on National Security Law charges in connection with attempts to organize a research institute "of a subversive nature." His wife, Kim Yong-ae, was arrested simultaneously and charged with communicating with an "anti-state organization" in West Germany. Ko Un, a dissident poet, Yi Chang-pok and Yi Pu-yong, the cochairmen of "Chonminnyon" (the National Democratic Alliance of Korea), were also rounded up by the joint investigation group, which had a brief to "sort out leftist groups and uproot them."

"Leftist groups are more active now than at any time before because of democratization," Attorney General Kim Ki-chun said April 6. "The prosecution should be ready to duel with these subversive groups."

The joint task force investigated all the leading dissident groups, including Chonminnyon and its 220 affiliates, "Chondaehyop" (the National Alliance of Students Representatives) and the Association of Writers for National Literature. The task force was dissolved in June and the

government declared it had succeed in eliminating concern of a leftist tumult. Prosecutors blame the large number of national security-related detainees on the government's stern actions against "communist subversives."

Dissident lawyers, not surprisingly, have a quite different opinion. "The government, above all, is responsible for the soaring numbers of political prisoners because it sternly applied the law after creating a relaxed mood by announcing exchanges with North Korea and openness to North Korean books," says Yun Chong-hyon, member of a dissident lawyers group.

"Many laborers and farmers have been arrested, besides students and dissidents, in contrast to the years under Chon Tu-hwan," says Yi Sok-tae, another member of the group. "Security politics" was the term coined to describe the arrests of farmers and workers by the police and the prosecution on political charges even though they were only asking for the right to livelihood, Yi said.

Security politics was a hot issue during the inspection and audit of the government by the National Assembly legislation and Judiciary Committee in September. During the inspection of the Justice Ministry and the Supreme Prosecutors Office, members of the opposition parties criticized security politics as a maneuver to dodge the liquidation of the Chon administration and avoid democratization.

There is a different point of view of security politics between the opposition parties and the dissident groups, which completely deny the authorities' intention to root out leftists as an "anachronism."

The opposition parties focus on the oppression of "democratic figures" such as their lawmakers, avoiding direct confrontation with the authorities over leftists. The opposition parties brought security politics on themselves by being partisan and conservative, Yi charged. But the prosecution denied intervention by politicians. "We just arrested law breakers, people who had committed a definite criminal act," the prosecutor in charge of public security argued. "We don't hear charges of fabrication or calls for the release of prisoners in public security cases."

Such a large amnesty as last year's, which was the result of political intervention, will not happen again, another prosecutor said. Dissident lawyers insist the prosecution infringed on civil rights by overusing search warrants and arrest warrants and by limiting defense attorneys' meetings with their clients.

President No Tae-u's remarks on political prisoners in Cologne, West Germany, during his recent European tour touched off a sharp criticism from dissidents here. He told German entrepreneurs that on Nov. 21 that all political prisoners had been released and violations of human rights had been eradicated in South Korea. The Korea National Council of Churches (KNCC) rebutted No's remarks, arguing that there are more than 1,000

political prisoners—539 students and youths, 395 workers, 45 teachers and 39 farmers.

Testimony by Chon 'Unlikely' by Year's End

SK2212050589 Seoul YONHAP in English 0431 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—Testimony by former President Chon Tu-hwan is unlikely before early January because there is too little time left to prepare, casting a cloud over President No Tae-u's agreement with opposition leaders on concluding liquidation of Chon's rule by the yearend, an informed source said Friday. No's aides contacted Chon's aides Thursday but failed to fix a date and the procedure for the testimony, one of two major conditions for completing liquidation, the source said on the condition of anonymity.

Ruling camp officials proposed that Chon testify on Dec. 28 or 29, noting that the agreement to end liquidation by the yearend would not be altered, he said. Chon's side said it was difficult to prepare answers to the more than 100 questions to be posed by lawmakers in the remaining week or so, an indication that Chon may not testify before the end of the year, the source said.

The National Assembly plans to send to Chon a list of the questions it wants answered on Saturday. Hundreds of written questions were submitted to the ad hoc committees, and panel members will combine them into around 100 questions because many were similar and it is almost impossible for Chon to answer so many questions in the one-day hearing, the source said. [passage omitted]

But No, apparently standing firm against last-minute rumblings over Chon's testimony, reaffirmed his determination to complete liquidation by the yearend, a deadline agreed on between himself and Kim Tae-chung, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil.

"You and all party members should make efforts to implement the agreement between ruling and opposition parties," No told a gathering of DJP [Democratic Justice Party] lawmakers and chiefs of DJP local party chapters. The participants in the dinner meeting also endorsed the president's determination by adopting a three-point resolution that called for firm unity among DJP members to implement the Dec. 15 agreement.

Police Break Up Sit-in; Hyundai Workers Walk Out

SK2212040489 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Masan, Kyongsangnam-to—Police whisked away 19 workers from the dispute-plagued TC Electronics Korea Corp. here in the Masan Free Export Zone yesterday, after breaking up a sit-in protest against the company's unilateral closedown.

TC Electronics Korea, a U.S.-invested company, has been embroiled in labor disputes for the past nine months.

The firm whose holding company is headquartered in the State of Texas produced communications-related products such as telephone answering devices, intercom system and computer accessories.

The Kyongsangnam-to Police Bureau put a 120-strong police force into the company at 10 a.m. to drive the workers out of the factory compound where they had been staging the sit-in for months.

Police moved to disperse protesters yesterday morning as Mun Taek-kon, a legal advisor to the Tandy Group, mother company of the dispute-ridden TC Electronics Korea, appealed to the Masan District Prosecutor's office for legal action against them.

The police armed with a court-issued search and seizure warrant broke into the workplace on the second floor of the company building where the workers were mounting the sit-in.

The Tandy Group, the strikers claimed, shut down TC Electronics Korea unilaterally without consultation with the employees early April this year when they set up the union.

Meanwhile, about 20,000 union members of Hyundai Motor Co. in Ulsan held a rally on the court yard before the main building at 10 a.m. yesterday, calling on the Hyundai management to scrap the decision to freeze wages for fiscal 1990.

The directors and executives of the Hyundai Group headquartered in Seoul decided to clamp their monthly payments and bonuses for next year at the level of 1989 at a recent rally so that they might resuscitate the conglomerate and its subsidiaries out of the current business slowdown.

Operation of the motor company, the largest auto-maker of Korea, stopped as the workers punched out of the factory after the massive rally.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore**Malaysia****Commentary Views Impact of CPM Surrender**

*BK1912104489 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The signing of the peace agreement earlier this month by the Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] is already making an impact. Both Thailand and Malaysia, which fought and contained the one-time threat posed by the Communist Party, are making plans for the resettlement of the remnants of that party.

The top leaders like Chin Peng will of course continue to live in China. The few hundred rank and file will begin new life in the border area inside Thailand. A (?simple) settlement called Friendship Village will be built soon. This is not only a [passage indistinct]. The exterrorists will have incentives to put their hearts and minds into peaceful and yet gainful pursuits like farming and livestock breeding. They can also learn to make a [word indistinct] contribution to the rapid economic growth of their area.

In the meantime, the task of removing booby traps and mines is to proceed without delay. This is a very necessary exercise. It will release more land for agricultural purposes. The clearance will also enable [words indistinct] without any fear. There is bound to be a sharp increase in tourism under [words indistinct]. Barter trade has always been a prominent feature on the border. A greater volume of trade can be focused quite confidently.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian and Thai Governments will discuss economic and social development projects next month. The General Border Committee comprising representatives from both countries meets periodically; until now, the purpose was to plan anticommunist strategy. Now, however, as the communists have surrendered completely, this committee will offer suggestions to improve the quality of life in that remote region.

Malaysian Defense Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen will propose that the committee should be retained. It will not discuss military matters, but it will reflect the new phase in relations between Malaysia and Thailand.

It is heartening to note that a Thai parliamentary committee has approved a road project for the border region. Specifically, the project is for the construction of a new highway to link the southern Thai province of Satun with the northern Malaysian state of Perlis. The new road will help to open up more areas for economic development. It will also be an incentive for the farmers to transport their crops to an appropriate center for sale. Both countries will derive immense benefits from all this development.

Closer relations between Malaysia and Thailand will contribute to the viability of their national economies as well as building the strength and dynamic growth of the ASEAN. They will therefore be entering the 1990's with every cause for optimism.

Singapore**Spokesman Expresses 'Concern' Over Panama Events**

*BK2112141089 Singapore Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 21 Dec 89*

[Text] In Singapore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has noted with concern the escalating tension and the loss of lives in Panama following General Noriega's declaration of the state of war with the United States. A ministry spokesman said, as a result, the situation could not be resolved peacefully. He added Singapore had a deep commitment to the UN Charter principles that safeguard the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of states, especially small ones. He hoped that foreign forces would be withdrawn and a democratically elected government installed.

Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Succession

*BK1912025089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0246 GMT
19 Dec 89*

[By Michele Cooper]

[Text] Singapore, Dec 19 (AFP)—Singapore enjoyed healthy economic growth and social and political stability in 1989, and the man who will lead it into the 1990s has promised more of the same for the next decade.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said he intends to move up in the last quarter of 1990 when Lee Kuan Yew, who has run the government for 30 years, steps aside. Now 48, Mr. Goh will be taking over an expanding economy in a racially diverse nation whose population has recently shown signs of wanting more freedom, analysts say. Acknowledging such demands, Mr. Goh said he expected the opposition to claim a bigger share of seats in Parliament as the decade progresses.

Internationally, he expressed concern that the world's attention was shifting to Eastern Europe and the political changes under way there, and away from the nations of the Pacific rim, which had hoped to come into their own in the 1990s. But he was convinced "the ingredients for economic success" remained present in Southeast Asia, and particularly in Singapore's immediate vicinity. With annual growth figures projected at around nine per cent for this year, Mr. Goh said economic prospects were bright.

"I see the possibility of Batam (in Indonesia), Johore (in Malaysia) and Singapore forming a triangle of growth within the ASEAN region," he said, referring to the

six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations which also includes Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand.

The nearby Indonesian island of Batam and Malaysia's neighboring state of Johore could contribute land, gas, water and labor for industries, while Singapore could provide management expertise, making the three erstwhile rivals into an economic force to be reckoned with, Mr. Goh said.

He was worried, however, about what he called the Eastern Europe factor. Before Eastern Europe began to open up, "we were all talking about the next decade belonging to the Pacific rim countries," he said. But now, he expected West European investments to be drained away from the Asia-Pacific region.

"And if Eastern Europe succeeds with the political change, which means they can manage the transition from a centrally-controlled economy to a free-market economy, then that place is going to boom.

"It may be the decade of Europe instead of the decade of Pacific rim countries," he said.

Mr. Goh said the region would be counting on Japan to "pick up the slack," largely because of the potential here for a large consumer market. "And investments from Japan, coupled with the skills and labor available over here, may be able to produce goods which can compete with Western Europe, even the sale of consumer goods to Eastern Europe," he said.

Mr. Goh, who will be only the second prime minister in the 25-year history of independent Singapore, said he would pursue Mr. Lee's policy of opposing trading blocs although he anticipated enhanced regional economic cooperation.

"We can see an economic grouping, but it would not be an economic trading bloc with tariffs which are against countries outside the regional bloc. That we are against," he said.

He dismissed suggestions that the economy would suffer because of the split between the stock exchange of Singapore and the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange.

"It will be smaller than before, but it will not be a mini-market," he said, adding: "we've got to compete."

Domestically, Mr. Goh spoke of the challenge of meeting the rising expectations of Singaporeans, and of the growing sophistication of voters. "In our next phase of development, I want to encourage greater participation in our political life," he said.

He foresaw a larger number of opposition members in Parliament, where the ruling People's Action Party currently controls all but one of the 81 elected seats. "I think probably it may end up with about eight or 10" opposition MPs, Mr. Goh said.

He said the new leadership differed with Mr. Lee more in style than in substance: Mr. Lee "believes in firm government from the center...whereas our style is a little more consultative, more consensus-building," he said.

He indicated he would hold firm on specific issues, including a controversial proposal to appoint "politically non-partisan" MPs to expand debate in Parliament.

Citing the building of racial and religious harmony as a key issue, he said he was prepared to move against church groups which were overzealous in promoting their own faith if necessary. He acknowledged the latent racial sentiments of Singaporeans, saying most people still vote "in accordance with whether you're my kind, whether you understand me, my language, my culture."

Opposition MP Raises Malaysia Spying Case

BK1912114589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Singapore, Dec 19 (AFP)—An opposition member of parliament [MP] has called on Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng to make a statement concerning an allegation that Singaporeans had been involved in espionage in Malaysia.

According to a notice paper issued by the clerk of Parliament to the press Tuesday, the question was submitted by Lee Siew Choh to be answered by Mr. Wong at the next sitting of Parliament. Mr. Lee is a non-constituency MP of the Workers Party.

The next sitting of parliament has not been fixed yet.

It is the first time the issue is being raised in Singapore since it was brought up by an opposition MP, Karpal Singh, in the Malaysian Parliament some two weeks ago. Mr. Singh of the Democratic Action Party (DAP) had asked the Malaysian Government to furnish details of ten people, including two foreigners, arrested by security officers for allegedly spying for Singapore.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Megat Junid confirmed that they had been arrested for spying but refused to identify the country involved. But he said it was a member of ASEAN which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. He said he did not want to identify the country involved in keeping with the ASEAN solidarity but added that the matter will be taken up on a government-to-government level.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who was in Penang on an unofficial visit soon afterwards, told reporters that it would be improper for him to respond to the allegation against his country as it was made by an opposition MP and not by the Malaysian Government.

Cambodia

SRV Residents Urged To Register for 'Safety'

BK2112014589 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
21 Dec 89 p 4

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Phnom Penh—The Vietnamese Embassy here has urged Vietnamese residents to register their names with the embassy "for their own safety," a move seen as an attempt by Hanoi to discover how many Vietnamese settlers are in Cambodia.

Vietnamese residents reported that the embassy had dispatched staffers both in Phnom Penh and to the countryside to persuade them to report to the embassy or consular offices to receive identity cards.

At the embassy yesterday, visitors reported seeing a large pile of light green overseas Vietnamese identity cards being processed and ready for distribution.

One Vietnamese living in the downtown Phnom Penh area of Don Penh said a Vietnamese diplomat had visited him at his apartment to ask him to register his name and address "for his own protection".

"The embassy will give you full protection in case of emergency," the resident quoted the diplomat as saying.

According to young Vietnamese residents, those with identity cards are exempted from the routine duties of Cambodian citizens such as military service and attending political classes.

Diplomats based here interpreted the campaign as an effort by Hanoi to determine exactly how many Vietnamese are now living in Cambodia, particularly how many have come after the Vietnamese invasion of this country in 1978.

Vietnam has officially said that less than 100,000 Vietnamese are in Cambodia, but resistance groups fighting the Phnom Penh government claim that at least 1.2 million Vietnamese have settled in the country.

The question of Vietnamese settlers was one of the issues that led to a deadlock at the Paris peace conference on Cambodia in August.

According to a report recently prepared by the US Defence Department, only "several thousand" Vietnamese settlers remain in Cambodia. The report added that it was not clear how much control Hanoi has over these people.

Some Vietnamese residents said they have refused to report to the embassy for fear of persecution or repatriation.

One aide worker said it was possible that Vietnam wanted to clear the issue regarding Vietnamese settlers as normalization of ties between Hanoi and the West began.

The embassy's campaign began a few weeks after Vietnamese troops left Cambodia in September, in what Hanoi described as a complete troop withdrawal but which has yet to be verified.

Some Vietnamese residents left Cambodia before the troop pullout for security reasons. However, some of them have reportedly returned to take advantage of booming business opportunities in Cambodia.

A few of the Vietnamese who have come here recently have adopted Cambodian names and tried to obtain Cambodian citizenship, as did many of the Vietnamese who settled in the country prior to the 1975 takeover by the Khmer Rouge.

Those who have not reported to the embassy are carrying their Vietnamese passports as identity cards, some residents said.

Sam Sundoeun Addresses SRV Army Celebration

BK2112103589 Phnom Penh *Domestic Service*
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Summary] On the morning of 20 December at the office of the Cambodian-Vietnamese Friendship Association, a get-together to mark the 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA] was held in the presence of Sam Sundoeun, member of the party Central Committee, secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Youth Union, and chairman of the Cambodian-Vietnamese Friendship Association; Min Khin, deputy chef de cabinet of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; Sar Kapon, deputy minister of education, and many cadres and staff from the central services. On the Vietnamese side, there were (Van Son Mai) and (Pham Van Lang), respectively adviser and military attache of the SRV Embassy in Phnom Penh.

On the occasion, Sam Sundoeun, in his address, spoke on the significance of the VPA founding anniversary. He praised and thanked the SRV Army for its past contributions to toppling the genocidal regime to liberate Cambodia and to defending and rebuilding the country. He said: "On behalf of the cadres, staff, workers, monks, and ethnic minority groups, I would like express again our profound gratitude to the brotherly Vietnamese party, Army, and people who have wholeheartedly provided support and assistance to the Cambodian Revolution and to the Cambodian people in their drive to overthrow the genocidal regime, to rebuild Cambodia, and to defend the nation's independence and the security of the Cambodian people. We remember forever the enormous sacrifices made by the cadres and combatants of the VPA for the right of mankind to live and for the cause of the Cambodian Revolution and socialism."

He also thanked Vietnamese fathers, mothers, and sisters who had allowed their children and husbands to implement the internationalist proletarian mission on the Cambodian soil in the past more than 10 years.

In conclusion, Sam Sundoeun wished the VPA and Vietnamese people new successes and that the special Cambodian-Vietnamese relations of friendship and multiform cooperation remain intact forever.

Afterward, (Pham Van Lang), Vietnamese military attache spoke on the historic struggle conducted by the VPA since its founding in 1930 up to the present and recalled the previous VPA intervention to knock over the genocidal Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. He said in conclusion: "In accordance with the agreement reached by the parties and states of the two countries, the Vietnamese forces have been completely withdrawn, allowing the Cambodian Army and people to assume themselves the tasks of defending the nation and its revolutionary gains, rebuilding the country toward prosperity, and preserving peace and tranquillity for the Cambodian people."

The gathering ended in an atmosphere of cordiality and solidarity.

Tie Banh Speaks at VPA Meeting Held 21 Dec

*BK2212122589 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1200 GMT 21 Dec 89*

[Report on speech by Tie Banh, Political Bureau member, Council of Ministers vice chairman, and defense minister, at a meeting held in Phnom Penh on 21 December to mark the 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnamese People's Army]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In his speech, Comrade Tie Banh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister, pointed out that the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA], a modern Army formed and developed by the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, was born on 22 December 1944 from the revolutionary movement conducted by the Vietnamese people. Originally, it was a high-quality regular armed unit composed of 34 members and armed with 34 ordinary weapons. The VPA has continued to fight an extraordinary historic struggle with sacrifices, unselfishness, and brave, courageous fighting exploits for the cause of the Vietnamese motherland and socialism. It freed the Cambodian people from the danger of genocide committed by the Pol Pot regime and then helped them rebuild Cambodia over the past 10 years.

During 45 years of reconstruction and struggle under the CPV's clear-sighted leadership, the VPA has maintained its remarkable tradition as an army of Uncle Ho. With the people, it achieved the great historic exploit—the August revolution of 1945—and scored victory over the French colonialists on the Dien Bien Phu battlefield, forcing the French Government to sign the 1954 Geneva accord under which France withdrew its troops from North Vietnam in order to allow the Vietnamese people in the north and the south to organize free elections with the aim of reunifying the Vietnamese motherland.

As the war conducted by the French colonialists ended, the U.S. imperialists encroached upon the Geneva treaty in order to grab the southern part of Vietnam and turn it into its colony. The U.S. imperialists used their malicious economic and military aid to achieve their goal of aggression and start a war, specifically a regional one. Afterwards, they Vietnamized the war—aiming at frustrating the struggle waged by the North Vietnamese people and transforming North Vietnam into a prehistoric desert. However, all of their perfidious maneuvers were completely defeated in the struggle courageously conducted by the Vietnamese armed units and people, who strived to overcome all manner of difficulties and obstacles in order to achieve a glorious strategic victory over the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their cronies in the spring of 1975. Since then, North Vietnam and South Vietnam and their people have been reunited.

After years of struggling for the country's independence and unity, the most important things that the Vietnamese people want are to preserve peace, solidarity, and friendship with nations the world over and to rebuild the motherland. However, expansionist China used a great number of maneuvers to urge and force Vietnam into adopting China's reactionary leaning. When it could not successfully carry out its schemes, China ordered the genocidal Pol Pot gang to embark on a war of aggression along Cambodia's southwestern border. Afterwards, China itself carried out a war of aggression against North Vietnam. However, the expansionist Chinese forces and their accomplices were eventually inflicted with a shameful defeat in counterattacks launched by the VPA and the Vietnamese people. Moreover, the Vietnamese Army and people also actively contributed to the achievement of the internationalist proletarian mission by providing support and assistance to brotherly Cambodia and Laos in their revolutionary struggles against the common enemies.

The victories scored by the heroic VPA are a bitter lesson for invaders and a most brilliant model for revolutions in the world.

Having the virtue that nothing is more important than independence and freedom and the perception that sacrifices and selflessness are required in order to safeguard the territory and avoid being branded as a murderer, the VPA has made Vietnam's glorious national tradition and stature famous all over the world.

Today, the VPA is becoming a new brand of Army of the working class and a modern, brave Army which develops and strengthens in all fields with each passing day. It is ready at all times to confront the gambits conducted by all manner of enemies in order to defend and rebuild the Vietnamese motherland toward prosperity and harmony.

In sum, the VPA continues to expand its glorious tradition of assuming the sacred task of making itself worthy of being praised by Chairman Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the Vietnamese people and the beloved father of the VPA, which is always loyal to the party, grateful to

the people, and ready to fight and make sacrifices for the country's independence, freedom, and socialism. It is able to implement every task, overcome every obstacle, and defeat all enemies.

Moreover, Comrade General Tie Banh underlined that at present, the general situation in the world and, particularly, international relations between countries continue to evolve toward detente, peace, and economic development. As for international events in connection with the Cambodian problem, they have developed quickly favoring the cause of our struggle in this new phase.

This development is in conformity with the Cambodian people's aspiration—to live in peace and happiness. That being the case, along with what we should do, our party and state have tried to seek an overall political solution to the Cambodian problem through negotiations in order to do away with confrontation and implement national reconciliation with the aim of serving the genuine interests of the Cambodian people and the cause of peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

In this spirit, our State of Cambodia has firmly adhered to a correct, goodwilled, and constructive stand in every international meeting and, specifically, at the first and second JIM's [Jakarta informal meetings] and the Paris international conference with the aim of restoring peace in Cambodia. However, what is regrettable is that the tripartite Pol Pot-Son Sann-Sihanouk opposition alliance—backed by a number of international reactionary forces—continues to maintain a stubborn position without genuine goodwill in the search for a settlement of the Cambodian problem. It attempts to use meeting forums to demand political and military power for the genocidal Pol Pot regime in order to pave the way for the latter to pose a new threat and genocide in Cambodia.

As a matter of fact, the reactionary Cambodian groups have tentatively taken advantage of the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia to try their last chance on the battlefields—aimed at illusorily altering the balance of forces in favor of their groups. It is obvious that the enemies will never accept the concessions made by Cambodia in accordance with the earnest desire and aspiration of the Cambodia people, but are intensifying their activities to ruin our people. As such, we should clearly realize that as long as the Pol Pot group is still present, peace can never be restored in Cambodia, and this is with or without a political settlement because the group is a threat to the Cambodian people's lives and peace in Cambodia.

Over the past 10 years and, in particular, when the last contingent of Vietnamese volunteer troops were completely repatriated from the State of Cambodia, Son Sann and Sihanouk, who depend on the Pol Pot group—the backbone of the tripartite alliance, have changed their strategies by pooling all of their available forces in order to launch new reckless and adventurous operations in a bid to grasp a number of positions along the border

and to carry out their strategic gambits aimed at invading and toppling the fledgling State of Cambodia. However, their attempts have been crushed by our armed forces and people in a timely, effective manner.

This is their bitter and heavy defeat. And it demonstrates that the enemy forces are moving toward a complete setback in this new phase where our armed forces have fully assumed the national defense task.

Lao Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Visit

BK1712113789 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1106 GMT 16 Dec 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 16 Dec (SPK)—Chea Sim, member of the KPRP [Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defence, received on Friday [15 December] in Phnom Penh a delegation from the Supreme People's Council of Laos led by its vice chairman, Thongsing Thammavong, which has been visiting Cambodia since 8 December.

Chairman Chea Sim termed the visit a contribution to the strengthening of relations of friendship and solidarity between Cambodia and Laos. He stressed the goodwill of the State of Cambodia in the process of finding a political solution to the Cambodian problem and ending the war in the country.

"We are examining the example from Namibia and the formula proposed by the Australian foreign minister, and the proposals of Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, said Chea Sim, adding that this will be the basis of a discussion on settling the Cambodian problem.

"We wish that the United Nations have a role to play in a political settlement, reaffirmed the Cambodian leader who drew attention to the fact that this is a major concession of the State of Cambodia in conformity with the current international situation."

Chea Sim thought that the State of Cambodia's new position will be widely shared by international opinion despite the refusal of the opposing Cambodian side. "In any case, we should prevent a return to power of the Pol Pot criminals," finally stressed Chea Sim.

For his part, T.S. Thammavong informed Chairman Chea Sim of the Lao Supreme People's Council's work to draft a constitution for 1990. He expressed the firm conviction that the Cambodian people, tempered by a protracted struggle and under the KPRP leadership, will score the final victory. He also expressed the total support of the Lao party and state for the new concessions and goodwill of the State of Cambodia for a political solution.

The Lao parliamentary delegation left Phnom Penh the same day, concluding a week-long visit to Cambodia. It visited the National Museum, Kompong Som City, and a number of cultural and economic establishments.

Indochina-ASEAN Journalists Seminar Closes

*BK2012122189 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1058 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 20—A seminar of journalists from Indochinese and ASEAN countries was closed here yesterday after a two-day sitting in the presence of Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kong Sam-ol.

Speaking at the closing session, Kong Sam-ol expressed his hope that the seminar would contribute to making Southeast Asia a zone of peace, friendship and cooperation.

The seminar, sponsored by the weekly "KAMPU-CHEA," was attended by 15 foreign delegates from Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam and more than 20 representatives from Cambodian mass media. Its main subjects were the role of the press in Southeast Asia, the promotion of cooperation between journalists of Indochinese and ASEAN countries, and how to make fair reporting on Cambodia.

Hun Sen Briefs Svay Rieng on Situation

*BK2212115189 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1052 GMT 22 Dec 89*

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 22—"The question of dissolving the Government of the State of Cambodia must be decided by the Cambodian people themselves.

In other words, they will never accept a forcible dissolution of their elected bodies of power and neither will they espouse any intention to bring the genocidal Pol Pot regime back to power in Cambodia, said Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen at a mass meeting during his tour of Svay Rieng Province (about 150 km east of Phnom Penh) from December 17-18.

Speaking to self-defence units of the province, Chairman Hun Sen said the party and Government of the State of Cambodia have done its best to put an early end to the Cambodian people's sufferings and bloodshed. "We have put forth new peace initiatives with a reasonable formula broadly considered "acceptable" to the Khmer opposition coalition, Hun Sen said. Contrary to our hope, he noted, the other side has turned down our proposals and remains committed to taking power by force to recommit crimes against the Cambodian people. "We do not want war, but we cannot sit with folded arms to see the Pol Pot criminals and their associates killing our people, Chairman Hun Sen stressed.

At another meeting with provincial leading officials, Hun Sen brought out latest developments in Cambodia

and the world as a whole, especially the ever greater demand for peacefully settling the Cambodian conflict. "Whether there will be a political solution or not," he said, "the Cambodian people will still march forward in the process of economic and social reform and the improvement of the people's living conditions."

During his stay in the province Chairman Hun Sen also visited Romeas Hek and Svay Rieng Districts and called at several local peasant families.

Earlier, in an interview with SPK, Chairman Hun Sen had voiced support for an early convening of another Jakarta informal meeting as proposed by the Thai prime minister and expressed his preparedness to discuss the formation of an international control mechanism (ICM), the cessation of foreign military aid, the Namibia formula for a solution to the Cambodian issue, and the Australian foreign minister's proposals on the establishment of a provisional authority in the transitional period in Cambodia.

VNA Reports 'Calm,' 'Firm' Situation in Nation

*BK2112030289 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT
20 Dec 89*

["Cambodia Calm and Firm (by VNA correspondent in Phnom Penh)"]—VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 19—Can the State of Cambodia hold out after the Vietnamese Army volunteers withdrew from the country?

This question may sound realistic to those who are concerned about the possible return of the "killing fields", especially after the radio of "Democratic Cambodia" repeatedly blared out the threat to "liberate" Phnom Penh within three days of the Vietnamese withdrawal. Indeed, in the small hours of September 30, all the three factions of the opposition forces mounted concerted attacks on a string of positions guarded by government troops along the border with Thailand. They lost no time in claiming to have "captured" the towns of Svay Chek, Phnum Srok, Thmar Puok and Sisophon, to have "cut off" Highway 5 and "isolated" the provincial capital of Battambang, etc.

"But," said the governor of Ratanamondol District in a chat with us beside a combat trench, "right at Battambang town and on its periphery, the Khmer Buddhists are holding their Bon Kathen masses as solemnly as usual. All schools and marketplaces remain open. Everybody goes about their business as normally as ever".

Now, not three days, but almost three months have gone by since the Vietnamese troop pullout, and the State of Cambodia is standing there firmly on its own. In October alone when the reactionary Khmer factions launched frenzied attacks in the hope of "swallowing up" the State of Cambodia, they lost 1,456 men killed or captured.

After those bitter setbacks, the opposition factions are falling back, whereas the revolutionary forces in the

border provinces are taking the initiative in tracking down enemy units and uncovering their secret agents. In November, they put out of action 900 enemy troops in the three border provinces of Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey and Battambang. Reeling under these bruising blows, the opposition Khmer factions gain resort to their shop-worn trick of raving about the "presence of Vietnamese troops". But their slander has been dismissed even by their soldiers who were captured in recent fights. These soldiers told us that they had not met any Vietnamese armyman on the scene. "Our commanders know full well that there are no more Vietnamese troops, so they have launched the attacks. In fighting, we came across no Vietnamese, but only Phnom Penh government troops who fought back tooth and nail," said Lach Duom, 47, assistant to a regiment commander of the Sonsannian force, who was captured on Oct. 23.

Cambodian Defence Minister Tie Banh said: "Now we know from our own experience that the other side can't do any better. However, they have not yet given up their ambition to gain military advantage. We want peace and national reconciliation, but we must always be on guard".

The State of Cambodia is always on the lookout and combat-ready. The leadership regards the defence of the country at the moment as the primary task. Thousands of young men throughout the country have of late joined the army. In Phnom Penh alone, their number has exceeded the plan by the hundreds. More than 1,000 mothers have each enlisted two or more sons in the army. All the hinterland provinces have offered to send their own forces to defend the northwestern border. Within one month only, 39 public offices and departments in Phnom Penh raised a considerable amount of money and gifts and sent it to the border guards.

The farmers are now bush harvesting the summer-autumn crop and cultivating the winter crop. The cities and towns continue to be supplied regularly with rice, beans and fish from the rural areas and send out consumer goods and farm-tools in return. The prices of such staples as rice, vegetables, foodstuffs, sugar and salt in Phnom Penh remain stable. The airports at Pochentong, Battambang and Siem Reap are functioning normally, so are factories and public offices. Ships from socialist and other countries are plying the Mekong River up [to] Phnom Penh harbour to unload hundreds of containers of supplies and carry away rubber, timber and farm-produce.

Defense Communique on 12-18 Dec Combat Success

*BK2012145689 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[Text] Here is the communique of the Defense Ministry spokesman on victories on the western border battlefield:

Since we have always effectively employed the combined forces and combined measures, while enhancing our

determination to broaden our superiority on the battlefield and constantly grasping the movement of the enemies, in the past week our Armed Forces and police forces in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces launched successful sweep operations and ambushes against the enemies—achieving successive victories, effectively defending our localities, and expanding their position.

According to still incomplete statistics, on 12, 13, 14, 15, and 18 December, we put 205 enemy soldiers out of action, including 141 killed on the spot and 65 others wounded or captured [figures as heard], and seized a large quantity of weapons.

For example, on 12 December in a counterattack launched along the two sides of Route 10 and Route 10-B in Ratanamondol District of Battambang Province and west of Aksar Veas, the 4th Division killed 44 enemy soldiers on the spot. During this combat, the units that made outstanding feats by smashing a large number of enemies were the 15th Regiment, the Intelligence Battalion, and the Air Defense Battalion.

On 14 December, also in Battambang Province, a contingent of the 42d Company of Bavel District laid ambush on the enemy route about 10 km west of Bavel. Based on their valiant spirit and their past experience, 15 minutes after the first gunshot our brothers had killed five enemy soldiers on the spot and seized two B-62's and three AK's.

Also on 14 December, the 1st Battalion launched a sweep operation against enemy soldiers on Hill 144, 6 km north of Treng. Due to the fact that the enemies have been weakened and become demoralized, and due to the repeated attacks by our valiant armed forces, we killed 10 enemy soldiers on the spot and seized 2 AK's and a B-41.

In Banteay Meanchey Province, on 12 December we sent combined forces to sweep the enemies at Say Saman. Thanks to our forces' courage, firm will to fight, and their grasping the enemies' movement, after a short fight our comrades in arms killed 10 enemies on the spot, wounded 8 others, and seized a quantity of war materiel.

At 0500 on 14 December, the 13th Battalion of 179th Division launched sweep operations against the enemies at (Phlek Smao) and Ta Vo. We killed five of them, while some others fled helter-skelter from the battlefield.

On 16 December, in a counterattack at Ang Kansek in Banteay Meanchey Province, a contingent of the 179th Division killed 8 enemies, wounded 42 others, and seized 9 guns and 3 ICOM walkie-talkies.

Two days later, on 18 December, the 9th Regiment of the 179th Division clashed with the enemies at an area 13 km southeast of Svay Chek, killing 20 enemies and capturing another.

On 12 December, a contingent of the 286th Division launched a search-and-destroy operation against the enemies in an area 9 km from Ampil. After a short battle, we

killed five enemies and seized nine assorted weapons, including an AK, five B-40's, and an 89-mm mortar.

All these victories clearly attested to our firm will to fight, our resolute determination against the enemies, and our mastery in defending the motherland.

Question of Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk Explored

BK2212025589 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Dec 89 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Cambodian Diary" entitled: "No Ignoring 'Spent Force'"]

[Text] A few months ago, many observers of the Cambodian tragedy believed the Khmer Rouge to be, in the words of a respected European journalist, "a spent force." Although the *Partie of Democratic Kampuchea*, as the Khmer Rouge call themselves, regularly issued communiques regarding their activities inside Cambodia, most people tended to discard their claims of victories as plain propaganda.

Today, especially since the beginning of the offensive launched by the Resistance in western Cambodia in September, the trend has been reversed. There is now serious concern that far from being a spent force, the Khmer Rouge are successfully moving troops and material closer and closer to provinces surrounding Phnom Penh, while capturing fertile ground in Battambang.

Outside Cambodia, probably no one would like to see the return to power of the Khmer Rouge. Inside the country, one can imagine the number of their dedicated supporters is limited.

Hanoi and the Phnom Penh regime believe that the Khmer Rouge should be kept away from any political role. This is the main reason, Vietnamese and Cambodian officials say, for the refusal of an interim quadripartite government that would include the Khmer Rouge. And Western nations are increasingly insistent that the Khmer Rouge not be allowed to take any important part in political or military activities after settlement of the Cambodian question.

So the view of Hanoi and Phnom Penh, as well as that of a growing number of Western and Asian governments, is that the Khmer Rouge should stay outside of whatever political process is taking place leading, one hopes, to a final peace. From a moral point of view, this is perfectly understandable.

But there is a problem. The Khmer Rouge do exist. How does one solve the question of their simple existence? Prince Norodom Sihanouk, one of the main proponents of the quadripartite interim government, has no personal sympathy for the Khmer Rouge either. In a text dated November 27, he said: "I do not trust the Khmer Rouge, I know that they are still capable of violating their most solemn vows." But, he added, "why should we drive the Khmer Rouge into a corner, why shouldn't we take them at their word" by adopting several measures which the

prince's text went on to explain. One of the measures called for the complete disarmament of the various Cambodian armed factions along with the sending of a UN peacekeeping force.

Prince Sihanouk added that both the Khmer Rouge and China have agreed that any personality who has been rejected by any of the three other factions would not be allowed to take part in the provisional government, a government described by the prince as "short-lived."

A few months ago a senior Soviet diplomat said, "We certainly do not want the Khmer Rouge but I admit that I have no idea what we should do with them, nor how to get rid of them."

In another text, published on December 9, Prince Sihanouk claimed that if one day Pol Pot should come back to power, it would be thanks to the "1,000 per cent anti-Khmer Rouge foreigners."

"Everybody criticises me for insisting on the interim quadripartite government," said Prince Sihanouk. "But what kind of measures have these people so prompt to attack me taken to prevent the Khmer Rouge from continuing to fight?" The question is, indeed, embarrassing.

To support Hun Sen and Phnom Penh with money or diplomatic recognition would not solve anything, the prince argued. The Khmer Rouge are determined to fight a war they view not as a civil war but a war against Vietnam and its friends in Phnom Penh. So far no one has been able to defeat the Khmer Rouge army. To refuse an acceptable solution, either Prince Sihanouk's own five-point proposal, or United Nations trusteeship over Cambodia, "can only reinforce the Khmer Rouge," the prince said.

Cambodians would then be left between the Vietnamese-inspired crocodile and the Khmer Rouge tiger, he said.

At the heart of Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans' proposal lies the desire to bring peace to Cambodia while by-passing the Khmer Rouge. The proposal implies a kind of agreement between Hun Sen, Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann, and the hope that the present administration in Phnom Penh could serve as the basis of the country's administration, at least during the period of trusteeship. What Mr Evans' proposal does not take into account is the nature of the Khmer Rouge struggle.

Mr Evans, like so many others, believes that the Khmer Rouge are little more than the armed extension of Chinese policy in Cambodia. They are convinced that should Thailand agree to put an end to the delivery of weapons to the Khmer Rouge, and should China stop supporting them, the "Pol Potists" would vanish almost instantly in Cambodia's remote countryside.

But the Khmer Rouge are not China's lackeys. They have their own policy, their own view of the situation which is heavily influenced by their ultra nationalism. The Khmer Rouge—according to sources otherwise deeply

hostile to the Khmer Rouge—are not fighting because China wants them to fight. The Khmer Rouge leadership hardly trust other foreign countries. The Khmer Rouge are certain they are fighting for the survival and independence of Cambodia.

This is why, no matter how much they dislike the Khmer Rouge's past policies, several well-informed sources said they are increasingly convinced that no plan for peace in Cambodia, no matter how well-meant, can fully succeed unless it takes into account the existence of the Khmer Rouge. And these observers tend to agree with Prince Sihanouk that it is safer to bring the Khmer Rouge as much as possible inside the peace process than to leave them out in the wilderness where, there is little doubt, they will continue to fight—a task for which they are currently well equipped.

Peace first.

I know it is fashionable these days to consider Prince Sihanouk himself a "spent force," an obstacle to final peace in Cambodia. There are "fashions" about Cambodia as about anything else. But two points often made by the prince—as well as his insistence on including all factions in order to be able to control them—appear as relevant today as they have always been.

The idea to have the United Nations play an important transitional role in Cambodia in order to allow the country to enjoy enough civil peace to conduct credible general elections is not exactly new. I remember Prince Sihanouk talking at length about the UN role and the urgent need to disarm all factions back in mid-1981, when I met him for the first time in southern France.

I am convinced that a general disarmament of all Khmer factions would be in the best interests of the people of Cambodia, if not of their leaders. And a credible UN presence or even a UN trusteeship would help guarantee a minimum of law and order which the country badly needs in order to allow its citizens to resume the task of rebuilding their land and lives.

It is encouraging to note that there has been no completely negative reaction to the recent Australian proposal concerning the UN role. Prime Minister Hun Sen himself now refers to the UN process in Namibia. I am aware that many Khmer, in all factions, see the total independence of their country as the most important factor. But independence is actually something the UN could help reinforce. At least as long as the international organisation enjoys a minimum of cooperation from the various Cambodian groups.

Elections and UN seat, I would argue, are of secondary importance. Election is a magic word for many Western governments. But the electoral process can be easily devoid of its true meaning: a chance for the people to freely express their will. No elections taking place any time soon (within the next two or three years) would mean much in Cambodia.

Peace, at the end of the war, appears much more urgent. If any of the factions would dare to ask their "volunteers"—in a secret ballot of course—how voluntary they are to fight the present war, the results would probably be quite embarrassing for those who claim it is a "popular" war. Remember the old slogan from the Sixties: Suppose they declare a war and nobody comes!

A transitional organisation, under UN supervision, could and probably should, include representatives of all factions. The transformation of devastated Cambodia, after decades of war, bombing and starvation, into a fairly democratic nation will take years. Other groups than the present four factions will probably appear and like to participate in the electoral process.

In the first stage, a popular referendum could at least be organised to elect the head of state, whose transitional government would then occupy the UN seat.

It has been my impression, after many trips inside Cambodia, that very people cared about the type of government or system at the top. [as published] Like people around the world, the Cambodians seem to care little for socialism or anything that restricts their basic freedoms. But they certainly care about their lives, and want peace above all.

District Seat in Oddar Meanchey 'Liberated'

BK2212002289 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 21 Dec 89

["Special Report on the Liberation of Anlung Veng District Seat in Oddar Meanchey Province"]

[Text] Anlung Veng District seat is the most important position of the Vietnamese enemies and puppets protecting all the defense networks along the Dangrek mountain range. At this position are stationed Vietnam's Division 302, troops of the 4th Military Region of Vietnam's puppets, and the Siem Reap provincial forces. This position has an extensive defense network covering nearly a 2-square-km area.

Since mid-November, our Cambodian national resistance forces have launched attacks to cut off roads from Thkeam Romeas to Chroeng, from Chroeng to Bos near Samraong, and from Thkeam Romeas to Anlung Veng. Along with cutting roads, the national resistance forces also attacked and swept positions at Thkeam Romeas, Ta Tum, 808, Chroeng, Bos, Trapeang Tau, and so on. The stretch of road east of Anlung Veng toward the road to Choam has also been completely cut by our national resistance forces. To the south, the stretches of road from Anlung Veng to Sre Noy and from Sre Noy to Banteay Srei have been basically cut by our national resistance forces. We have also attacked and liberated a number of positions of the Vietnamese enemies and puppets, including an important regimental position at Romchek commune. Route 63 from Romchek to Sre Noy has also been cut; and so has the stretch from Sre Noy to Banteay Srei.

On 19 and 20 December, our Cambodian national resistance forces launched an offensive to destroy and completely liberate the strategic Anlung Veng position. We killed or wounded many soldiers of the Vietnamese enemies and puppets and seized all the war materiel at this position. The attack and liberation of this position of the Vietnamese enemies and puppets at Anlung Veng has basically dismantled the networks defending positions of the Vietnamese enemies and puppets along the Dangrek mountain range. These positions have basically been liberated.

VONADK Urges People, Soldiers To Surrender

BK2212035089 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Station commentary: "Three hundred civilians and soldiers of the puppet state authorities in Popok Commune, Stoung District, Kompong Thom Province, have laid down their arms and surrendered to our Cambodian national resistance forces"]

[Text] Following month-long attacks by our national resistance forces to cut off National Route 6 from Kompong Kdei and Stoung to Tbeng commune in Kompong Svay Khang Lech District [Kompong Thom Province], the activities to transport troops, supplies, and all kinds of war materiel of the Vietnamese enemies and puppets to the West are virtually at a standstill. Later, on 11 December, our national resistance forces attacked and liberated positions of the Vietnamese enemies and puppets forming the network defending Pralay township and also completely liberated Pralay township. Thus, the Vietnamese enemies and puppets in the entire Stoung District [Kompong Thom Province], due to lack of supplies and ammunition, and deprived of salary, are restless and panicking. As for the people in various villages and communes in Stoung District, they are happy and greatly encouraged. They have actively cooperated with our national resistance forces and carried out activities to contribute to fighting the Vietnamese enemies and puppets, cutting National Route 6, destroying, and freeing officials of the Vietnamese enemies' state authorities in various villages and communes.

This situation has caused further panic and fear among Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and officials of the puppet state authorities in villages and communes. The cruel puppets, who are out and out lackeys of the Vietnamese, have fled for their lives. About 100 armed agents of the puppets in every village in Popok commune and about 200 puppet civilian officials have also laid down their arms and unconditionally surrendered to our national resistance forces and people. Thus, our national resistance forces, in cooperation with our people, have liberated the entire Popok commune and all the villages in this commune: Popok, Trapeang Russei, Chambuo, and Khtor Moan, and so on.

Therefore, compatriot Cambodian soldiers and militiamen, as well as village, commune, and district officials

in other places, please follow this good example of compatriot Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and officials in Popok commune, Stoung District. Please immediately lay down your weapons and surrender to our national resistance forces and people right where you are and do not stay and die with the Vietnamese enemies. Dying on behalf of the Vietnamese enemy is very cheap and also repulsive.

Resistance Official Explains Sihanouk's Stance

BK2112100589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Station correspondent's interview with Keo Put-reaksmei, official in charge of foreign affairs of the office of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's personal representative; date not given—recorded]

[Summary] [Correspondent] Can you tell us when the next Jakarta informal meeting will be held, what countries will attend it, and within what framework it will proceed?

[Keo Put-reaksmei] Our tripartite movement has already informed the Indonesian co-chairman that we are always ready to contribute to finding a solution to the conflict. In this context, we said that we are prepared to attend another informal meeting, be it in France or Indonesia. This future informal meeting shall be held within the framework of last August's Paris international conference.

We are aware that Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime want to have an informal meeting outside the framework of the Paris international conference because they do not want the comprehensive solution to be used as the basis of the solution to the Cambodian problem. Why? It is because the last Paris international conference insisted that the whole problem and not just parts of it be comprehensively solved. For example, it demanded that Vietnam withdraw from Cambodia under the guarantee or control of the United Nations, that the question of Vietnamese colonists who have come to grab the land and resources of the Cambodian people be also settled, and that all other issues relating to this problem be settled as well.

Our stance is that we must not solve anything outside the framework of this international conference whereas Vietnam and Hun Sen have been working for a partial solution.

[Correspondent] Recently Australia made a new initiative to find a solution. What is the reaction of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia to the new proposal?

[Keo Put-reaksmei] "Regarding Australia's new proposal to place Cambodia under the provisional trusteeship of the United Nations, pending the elections of a new government, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of the tripartite movement, has already made known that

he will be pleased to accept this new proposal of Australia if the five-point proposal that he presented to the United Nations and the international conference in France is found unacceptable. Should his proposal be proved impractical, he would then accept that Australia's new formula be implemented. In other words, our Samdech Euv [Sihanouk] was the first to agree to solving this problem in order to bring an early end to the misery of our people. His only concern has always been the well-being of his children. When Australia proposed that new formula, he accepted it. Anyway, this is not a brand-new formula. Samdech Euv has long proposed it. When Australian Minister Gareth Evans met the samdech in August during the Paris international conference, he was told by the latter that Cambodia could be temporarily placed under UN trusteeship if his five-point proposal was proved impractical."

And now that Australia proposed this so-called new formula, the samdech said he accepted it.

[Correspondent] The Heng Samrin regime announced it was prepared to discuss the Australian proposal, but insisted that the seat of the Cambodian coalition government be left vacant. Please comment.

[Keo Put-reaksmei] What determines our Samdech Euv's decision to accept this or that formula is not his own interests or the interests of any group or faction. His only concern is to see our Cambodian people freed from misery, to see our country's independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity restored, and to see our people become happy and prosperous again.

"Regarding the question of vacating the seat of our tripartite movement, the samdech only demands that this should never be done before any solutions or any important agreements have been made. In particular, the seat should never be declared vacant if the Hun Sen regime or the Vietnamese communists have not yet agreed to have international control on the so-called Vietnamese troop withdrawal. This is one thing. Second, vacating the seat should never be done if the government of the puppet regime has not yet agreed to be dissolved like our tripartite government. Third, there must be a consensus on the comprehensive solution before this seat is vacated."

These are just a few conditions attached to the formula so that it can be truly effective in solving the problem. His stance is unlike that of the Hun Sen regime which only wants to fool other people, pretending to accept the Australian formula just to see that the seat of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea is declared vacant to weaken the tripartite movement.

[Correspondent] Please explain that should the Australian formula be implemented the communist structures installed by Vietnam in Cambodia for the past 10 years would be automatically abrogated and that the UN seat of the Cambodian coalition government would be vacated till the completion of free elections in Cambodia.

[Keo Put-reaksmei] "Hun Sen of the regime installed in Cambodia by Vietnam over the past 10 years has always said and just said that he would agree to the formula of Australia and he also said that he accepted it in order to show to the world that he was the champion of peace. At the same time, he demanded that the seat of Democratic Kampuchea, of our tripartite movement, be declared vacant. This clearly shows that the true intention of the Hun Sen regime is to weaken the tripartite resistance."

If Hun Sen were sincere, he would not have demanded that the seat be declared vacant. In his five-point proposal, the samdech proposed that both the coalition government and the Phnom Penh regime be dissolved. As a consequence, the Cambodian seat would be automatically vacated. For this reason, there is no need for Hun Sen to demand seat vacancy at all.

Reaction to Rogachev Statement on Concessions

BK2212034989 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Unattributed "short commentary:" "The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea and Cambodian National Resistance Forces Have Made Maximum Concessions to Vietnam and its Puppets"]

[Text] Upon arriving in Bangkok, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev said Vietnam's puppets in Phnom Penh have made many concessions, now it is the resistance's turn to make some. What are the concessions made by Vietnam and its puppets? These are no different than Nguyen Co Thach's statement at the Paris conference saying Vietnam is flexible as steel. Considering the essence of the so-called proposal of Vietnam and its puppets, we see that:

1. Vietnam still demands that its puppet regime in Phnom Penh be maintained.
2. There should be nothing to control Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia; therefore, Vietnamese troops are still everywhere in Cambodia wearing Cambodian soldiers' uniforms and disguising themselves as puppet soldiers, militiamen, Cambodian people, or as Vietnamese settlers.

Therefore, the result remains the same; that is the continuation of Vietnam's act of aggression and occupation in Cambodia. Vietnam has not been flexible nor has it made any concessions. As for the propaganda on elections within the framework of the puppet regime, it is simply a deception to cover up their true goal.

The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK] and the Cambodian national resistance forces, through the peace proposal of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, leader of Cambodia's national resistance forces and president of Democratic Kampuchea, has made a great concession to both Vietnam and its puppets and lackeys in Phnom Penh. To Vietnam, this concession allows an orderly withdrawal of all its aggressor troops

from Cambodia under the effective supervision of the UN Control Commission with the participation of the four Cambodian parties. Furthermore, no war damages are claimed from Vietnam. On the contrary, we are happy to establish good neighborly relations with Vietnam after the latter withdraws its troops from Cambodia and end its occupation in Cambodia.

To Vietnam's puppets and lackeys in Phnom Penh, we are willing to dissolve the CGDK, which is the Cambodian people's legitimate representative, along with the dissolution of the illegal regime in Phnom Penh to set up an equal four-party provisional government in order to organize election in Cambodia. This is a great concession to the puppets, Vietnam's lackeys, who are traitors and who have been collaborating with the Vietnamese aggressors for the past 11 years, to massacre the Cambodian nation and people.

Considering the fate of puppets and lackeys of foreign aggressors in other countries in history, in France for example, such a concession has never been made. This is in a genuine spirit of national reconciliation and goodwill to quickly solve the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively by the CGDK and Cambodia's national resistance forces.

Therefore, if the Vietnamese-Soviet side and its puppets and lackeys really want to solve the Cambodian problem as they have loudly said, they should not collude and carry out the maneuver to continue maintaining Vietnam's aggressor forces in Cambodia. They should accept two reasonable and just principles:

1. Vietnam should withdraw all its aggressor forces from Cambodia under UN supervision.
2. The illegal puppet regime and the legitimate CGDK should be dissolved and a four-party provisional government should be set up to organize free and just general election in Cambodia under supervision.

This is the only way in which the Cambodian people can genuinely exercise their right to self-determination.

Laos

PRC Border Trade Delegation Arrives 19 Dec

BK2012113289 Vientiane KPL in English 0937 GMT
20 Dec 89

[Text] Vientiane, December 20 (KPL)—A 9-member delegation of Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China, led by its mayor arrived here on Dec. 19 for an eight-day visit to Laos at the invitation of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations.

While here, the delegation, consisting of trade and technical representatives, will discuss with the Lao side ways to set up economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, thus contributing to further developing

the relations of friendship and cooperation between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

Yunnan Province has 36 million inhabitants and shares border of over 700 km with the three Lao provinces namely: Phong Saly, Oudomsai, and Luang Namtha. The people in Yunnan showed their sympathy and support to the Lao people in the struggle for national liberation. Trade exchange between the Lao provinces and Yunnan has been widened in recent years.

The Chinese delegation was met at the airport by Deputy Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations Loi Chanavat [name as received].

Chinese Ambassador to Laos Liang Feng was also present at the airport.

Meets With Sali Vongkhamsoo

BK2112121189 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT
21 Dec 89

[Text] Vientiane, December 21 (KPL)—Sali Vongkhamsoo, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning and finance, received here on Dec. 20 a delegation of Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China, led by its Mayor Hu Zhiqiang on a current visit here at the invitation of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations.

The host and his guest spoke of the way for further promoting the long-standing friendship and solidarity between the peoples of the two countries, in particular in economic and trade cooperation based on the respect for national independence and sovereignty and on the common interest.

Vice-Chairman Sali Vongkhamsoo hailed the visit to Laos by the delegation and wished the guests success during their stay.

In the morning of the same day, the Chinese delegation met with a delegation of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] led by its Minister Phao Bounnaphon. The sides discussed matters for further cooperation in economy and trade between the two countries.

Meets With Sisavat Keobounphan

BK2212111189 Vientiane KPL in English 0927 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Text] Vientiane, December 22 (KPL) - Sisavat Keobounphan, Politburo member of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee], mayor of Vientiane, received here yesterday a delegation of Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China, led by its mayor, Hu Zhiqiang, on a current visit here at the invitation of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations.

The two mayors friendly spoke of the further promotion of the long-standing friendship and solidarity between the two peoples of Laos and China.

Liang Feng, Chinese ambassador to Laos was also present at the reception.

In the morning of the same day, the Chinese delegation visited Lao garment factory, plywood factory, toothpick factory and other historical and production places in Vientiane.

U.S. Assists Houa Phan Development Project

BK1912102889 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Vientiane, December 19 (KPL) - The rural development project in two mountainous districts of the northern province of Houa Phan—Viangthong and Houa Meuang—undertaken since late October, is proceeding in full swing.

The project is in the framework of the assistance from the United States of America. Up to now, five bout of the entire 60-km road between the villages of Hiam and Sengson in Viangthong District has been cut.

The rural development project in Viangthong, besides road construction, also envisages the construction of irrigation facilities on Et and Ngao rivers and a small hydro-electric power station costing over five million U.S. dollars. The project will take six years of execution starting from 1989.

Paper Analyzes Coup Attempt in Philippines

BK2112080189 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Dec 89

[PASASON feature: "Analysis of the Situation in the Philippines—the Coup Attempt and Presence of U.S. Military Bases in That Country"]

[Text] The sixth coup attempt against Mrs Aquino's government was the longest and bloodiest one. Explaining the causes of the uprising, foreign analysts noted that Mrs Aquino's weakness lies with the country's economy. Prior to the coup attempt, the Philippines suffered severe inflation; high cost of living; rising bank loan interest rates; natural disasters, especially those caused by typhoons; energy shortages which led to shutting electricity off 4 to 6 hours daily; and subsequent economic and industrial standstill. Moreover, corruption still prevailed in government circles. These are the factors in the decline in Mrs Aquino's popularity to only 45 percent. Another important cause is the presence of the two U.S. military bases in the Philippines, the lease of which will expire on 24 December. This is another challenge for Mrs Aquino's government, for it will have to decide whether the foreign military bases should be allowed to remain in the country or not. However, the broad sector of public opinion believes that Mrs Aquino will give a green light to the U.S. bases against the feeling

of the majority of Filipinos, in particular, the extremely nationalistic middle class who consider the presence of the foreign military bases in their country a disgrace and do not want their government to be under the United States, their former master. [Words indistinct] the U.S. troops are blamed for the spread of AIDS in the Philippines. The government has faced regular protests in this regard.

The story behind the coup attempt, according to many sources, is that the coup attempt took place following the return from exile of Eduardo Conjuangco, a highly influential industrialist of the Philippines and former close associate of Marcos. Political observers believe that Mrs Aquino, during her visit to the United States 3 weeks earlier, held talks with U.S. leaders on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

The coup plotter was Colonel Gregorio Honasan or Gringo Honasan. He was also the architect of the previous rebellion against the government. He is 41 years old and was one of the heroes in the maneuver to topple the Marcos government.

On 1 December, the first day of the coup attempt, the mutinous soldiers seized two military bases before proceeding to hold Makati, commercial and financial center and residential area of foreign diplomats in Manila, under their control. On 7 December, some units of the rebelling troops, according to foreign sources in Manila, surrendered to the government. On the same day, President Aquino declared a state of emergency. On 8 December, at the request of Mrs Aquino, more than 100,000 people of all strata in Manila took to the streets to voice their support for her, and the coup attempt ended. The rebelling soldiers fled to unknown hiding places.

Vice President Salvador Laurel, former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, and political figure Danding Cojuangco were reportedly behind the abortive coup that has cost severe damage to Mrs Aquino's government. According to incomplete figures released by the Philippine Red Cross on 7 December, 74 people were killed and 549 wounded. On the same day, the government gave \$90 million cash to banks to pay their clients who were waiting in long lines to withdraw their money. Mrs Aquino requested parliament to pass the budget bill urgently to provide money for repairing the damage caused by the coup. The United States declared its support for Mrs Aquino's government. During the peak of the crisis, President Bush ordered air protection for Manila, an action that has infuriated the Filipinos who regard it as a violation of their country's independence. The Philippine press carried strong criticism from both rightist and leftist elements against the United States who say the U.S. action was designed to weaken the Philippines' position in the next round of talks on the future of the U.S. military bases. The Filipinos, especially the middle class, believe that the United States is responsible for the country's upheaval which includes the spread of AIDS and interference in internal affairs.

Asian and Western countries as well as major powers say that the external interference in the internal situation in the Philippines is the destruction of the Philippines' stability and conclude that U.S. intervention saved Mrs Aquino from the coup attempt. However, the weakening power of Mrs Aquino in the administration and her diminishing political influence could bring more problems to her in the future.

Leaders Greet CSSR Counterparts 15 Dec

*BK1712105289 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT
17 Dec 89*

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 17 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] sent on Dec 15 a message of greetings to Marian Calfa, prime minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic [CSR], on the occasion of his appointment to the post.

The message wrote:

"On behalf of the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR and in my own name, I would like to express sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of your appointment to the post of prime minister of the CSR. That is the trust of the party, government and people of Czechoslovakia to you in the new period of restructuring."

"I hope that with your contribution, the longstanding fraternal friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries will be further promoted and strengthened for the peace and socialism. I wish you good health and success in your noble task," said the message in conclusion.

Phoun Sipaseut, minister for foreign affairs of the Lao PDR, has also sent a congratulatory message to Jiri Dienstbier on the occasion of his appointment to the post of foreign minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Kaysone Phomvihane Receives Thanks From Ceausescu

*BK2112122589 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT
21 Dec 89*

[Text] Vientiane, December 21 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, recently received a message of thanks from Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party.

The message expressed thanks to the Lao leader for his congratulatory message on the occasion of the re-election of Nicolae Ceausescu to the post of general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party.

The message also confirmed that the friendly relations and cooperation between the parties and peoples of the two countries would be further promoted in the interest of the two peoples, for peace and socialism.

Oudom Khatti-nga Receives SRV Youth Delegation

*BK2012115489 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT
20 Dec 89*

[Text] Vientiane, December 20 (KPL)—Oudom Khatti-nga, alternate Politburo member and head of the Organization Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee in charge of mass organizations, received here on Dec. 18 a delegation of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by its second secretary Ho Duc Viet.

Oudom Khatti-nga hailed the effective development of close relations between youth organizations of Laos and Vietnam expressing hope that the visit of the Vietnam youth delegation will provide even more favorable conditions for the development of multiform relations, cooperation and mutual assistance between the youths of the two countries.

In this connection, the 1990 plan for cooperation between the organizations was signed here on Dec. 19.

The plan stipulates that the two sides will collaborate in educating youth and young pioneers of the two countries based on the special relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, governments and peoples of the two countries. In addition, the officials of the two countries will exchange visits, help each other train personnel engaged in youth affairs and cooperate with each other in other matters.

The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union arrived here on Dec. 14 and left here for home on Dec. 19.

CPV Control Committee Delegation Arrives

*BK2212092989 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 22 Dec 89*

[Text] This morning, a delegation of the Control and Supervision Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee led by Comrade Mrs Vu Thi Hong, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice chairwoman of the Control and Supervision Committee, arrived in Vientiane for a visit to Laos. The purpose of the visit is to exchange and learn lessons on control work with the Control Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Comrade Mrs Loun Chaksouvan, member of the party Central Committee and first vice chairwoman of the Control Committee of the LPRP Central Committee, along with a number of cadres concerned. Comrade Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to Laos, was also on hand to welcome the delegation at the airport.

PASASON Commemorates Vietnamese Army Day*BK2212110489 Vientiane KPL in English 0937 GMT
22 Dec 89*

[Text] Vientiane, Dec. 22 (KPL) - The daily newspaper "PASASON" today issues an editorial greeting the 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnamese People's Army, December 22, 1944, describing the day as a tradition day of the Vietnamese people's armed forces, which now becomes the festive day in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The paper acclaims the great victory recorded by the Vietnamese People's Army and people and its growth and strength, under the banner of the Communist Party of Vietnam, in the August 1945 revolution, which led to the founding of the first worker-peasant state in Southeast Asia and to the total victory over the neocolonialist aggressive war of the U.S. imperialists.

The Vietnamese People's Army has contributed to the successful national liberation, achieved its international duty in Laos and Cambodia, and also contributed effectively to the national construction, the perfection and development of the national defence among people and to the renovation processes in Vietnam, says the paper.

The paper goes on that the powerful forces and victory of the Vietnamese People's Army are the common strength and victory of the three armies and peoples of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, pointing out that the forces have contributed significantly to the promotion of great special friendship and militant solidarity, which are vital to the development of the revolution of the three countries in Indochina.

The assistance by the Vietnamese People's Army to the Lao people and the sincere feeling between the Vietnamese international fighters and the Lao Army and its people have ever since brightened the militant solidarity between the armies really respectful to Marxism-Leninism, stresses the paper.

The paper wishes the Vietnamese People's Army greater success in renovation according to the resolution of the VI Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Philippines**Further Reaction to Panama Events Reported****Aquino Responds to Reporters***HK2212073189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT
22 Dec 89*

[Text] Manila, Dec 22 (AFP)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino, whose government was saved from a military putsch three weeks ago by U.S. intervention, Friday issued a cautious statement on developments in Panama.

Replying to questions sent by the local press, Mrs. Aquino said the Philippines supported "the cause of democracy in Panama," but she refused to recognize outright new president Guillermo Endara. "The matter of the proposed recognition of the Endara government is under study by the Department of Foreign Affairs," she said.

Manila newspapers and columnists meanwhile expressed apprehension about the possibility that the Panama scenario could be duplicated in the Philippines.

The U.S. invasion of Panama came three weeks after American warplanes provided crucial air cover for troops loyal to Mrs. Aquino on December 1 and 2 as the government turned back a nearly successful military coup attempt.

Manila and Washington have denied opposition charges that the U.S. F-4 Phantoms, based at Clark Air Base near Manila, engaged in combat, saying they never fired a shot or dropped ordnance. "The U.S. attack on Panama should serve as a sober reminder to those in government who welcomed Washington's intervention in purely internal affairs of the Filipino nation," the MALAYA newspaper said in an editorial.

It said the invasion of Panama showed that the United States "has no compunction about riding roughshod over the sovereignty of another country if its vital interests so require. Today, Panama. Tomorrow?"

Department Studies Issue*HK2212093589 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Dec 89*

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Department is presently studying a proposal for the Philippine Government to recognize the U.S.-backed Panama regime.

President Corazon Aquino ordered Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus to study intensively the proposal for the recognition of the Endara government. This is in relation to her previous statement that she will support democracy in Panama. However, the president did not comment on the U.S. attack on the Central American state. Some Congressional leaders had urged the president to immediately recognize the regime headed by Guillermo Endara, who proclaimed himself as president after U.S. forces attacked Panama on Wednesday [13 December]. The president said that, as she had stated after the Panamanian election—prior to the crisis—the Philippine Government will support democracy in that country. According to the president, although she did not directly express her support for the Endara government, the repeated expression of support for democracy in Panama is an indication toward the recognition of the new Panamanian regime. She stressed that the issue cannot be immediately acted upon without being thoroughly studied by the Foreign Affairs Department. Press Undersecretary Felix Bautista:

[Begin recording in English] The matter of the proposed recognition of the Endara government is under study by

the Department of Foreign Affairs. I repeat our support for the cause of democracy in Panama. [end recording]

Speaker Urges Recognition

HK2212073389 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. proposed that the country immediately recognize the new Panamanian government. According to Mitra, Congress can pass a resolution formally recognizing the newly appointed Panamanian leader Guillermo Endara. Mitra added that General Manuel Antonio Noriega should concede defeat.

Column on New Regime

HK2212044189 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY
in English 22 Dec 89 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "A Kinder and Gentler America"]

[Text] While the civilized world, with some notable exceptions, resounds with condemnation of the United States' invasion of Panama, a group in Congress has proposed that we immediately extend full diplomatic recognition to the U.S.-sponsored government of Guillermo Endara, who installed himself president as soon as "Operation Just Cause"—the code name for the invasion—came into effect Wednesday against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Ironically, none of the congressmen, who seem to have suddenly become so knowledgeable on Central America and who seem convinced that Panama should be a foreign policy priority area, seem to have anything to say about the legality or morality of the U.S. adventure.

The House leadership tried to railroad the resolution authored by majority floorleader Francisco Sumulong, Sr., foreign affairs committee vice chairman Jose de Venecia, Representatives Miguel Romero, Pablo Ocampo and Teresa Aquino Oreta. The coalesced minority and the progressive faction of the ruling majority, however, succeeded in stalling it. It will now have to be debated in committee, hopefully with participation from the public, before it goes back to plenary. But with the United States lining up the support of its allies and lackeys around the world, the majority could use the guillotine to pass it without so much delay. With or without the concurrence of the Senate, they could then convey to Malacanang "the sense of the House" that the government should recognize the U.S.-backed regime in Panama.

If and when that happens, we could become the first—or at least among the first—to recognize the self-proclaimed government even before Panama's immediate neighbors do. It is not unreasonable to theorize that the House resolution is American-inspired, if not American-initiated, and that the Aquino administration, which owes its life to timely U.S. military intervention last

December 1st, has no choice but simply to yield. As with our foreign debt, we are perhaps required to render automatic debt service.

What is happening is reminiscent of 1955 when, acting on American inspiration and guidance, then-President Ramon Magsaysay extended full diplomatic recognition to the government of South Vietnam under Ngo Dinh Diem, following a rigged election that violated the Geneva Accords, even before it could show the proper attributes of sovereignty and independence. Just as Senator Claro M. Recto could correctly call the recognition "injudiciously premature" then, so can we call the present proposal injudicious, precipitate and premature.

In a war between one of the world's smallest countries and the biggest military power mankind has ever seen, it is safe to predict the victory of the strong. But until the smoke has cleared, the far-away Aquino regime, which already has more problems than it can solve, has no business making prescriptions as to who should govern that distant land. We do not know, we cannot know, whether at the end of the invasion, after U.S. artillery and warplanes shall have pounded Panama City to smithereens, the Panamanians will still look to America as their liberator or at its puppet government as their friend. We do not know whether such a government will survive at all. It seems to us—and so should it seem to our officials in Congress—that if there is anything that concerns us here, it is America's invasion of its puny little neighbor, not the political quarrel between Noriega and Endara, which is not for us or for America to settle.

Having recognized the state of Panama since 1946, our state-to-state relations subsists, and should not be affected by internal changes either in our country or in the other state. We should deal with whichever government the Panamanian people support, and should never attempt, like the U.S. to impose our predilections or preferences.

Both President Aquino and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus have expressed support for "Panamanian democracy." There is nothing wrong with this, except that it is unclear what democracy they are talking about. Democracy set up by American bayonets? Assuming you can call it that, the issue here is not democracy but Panama's right to exist as an independent state. Unhappily, despite Mrs Aquino's and Mr Manglapus's deliberate effort to be vague, their statement is a shameful expression of support for a shameful act.

The invasion has been rightly condemned by the Soviet Union, China, Indonesia, and most of Washington's allies in Latin America and the Organization of American States, to name just a few, as a criminal act. The fight against international crime, says Mexico, is not sufficient reason to intervene in a sovereign state. It is an aberration to speak of democracy and carry out aggression, says Nicaragua. And so on. With just anger, Central American governments that had been consistently critical of Panama's de facto ruler and Washington's bete

noire have denounced the aggression as completely unacceptable and unjustified. Although no supporters of Noriega's, these immediate neighbors, who know what goes on in Panama more than we can ever know, have refused to recognize the self-proclaimed Endara government which our congressmen halfway round the globe, who do not even know enough of what goes on inside their own country, would like to recognize as Panama's "democratically-elected" government.

Let us be a little circumspect.

The invasion, according to reports, had been discussed months before the weekend when a U.S. Marine officer was killed in Panama and Noriega declared a state of war against the U.S. The killing merely allowed President Bush to say he was ordering troops to Panama "to save American lives and to arrest Noriega" who had been earlier indicted on drug-dealing charges in two Florida courts. But the attack had been planned after the U.S.-supported anti-Noriega coup had failed. Now the American media seem to give Bush very high marks for having successfully masked his invasion plan while he greeted guests at a White House Christmas party hours before the event.

Given the widely known anti-Noriega sentiment that seems to afflict America, liberal and progressive Americans, along with conservatives, will probably be toasting their president for having found the courage to finally deal with the Panamanian madman. They will cheer the pounding of Panama as they cheered the invasion of Grenada and the bombing of Libya. Lost to them is the principle of nonintervention which they usually championed at the United Nations and in every other forum wherever there was a victim of aggression and the aggressor was not the U.S.

It would have been easier to sympathize with the U.S. if this invasion were the result of a mere miscalculation. But it looks like what Professor Morgenthau calls "a planned and foreseen culmination of (U.S.) foreign policy." When one thinks that Mr Bush came to power promising a kinder and gentler America, we can only thank our lucky stars that he is not committed to making America the most dangerous nation in the world.

Editorial Criticizes U.S.

HK2212043589 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 22 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S. Invasion of Panama"]

[Text] The Panama crisis presents the world yet again the awful choice between the Scylla of an authoritarian and oppressive regime and the Charybdis of foreign intervention in a sovereign country's affairs.

As governments go, the regime of Gen. Antonio Noriega could not be uglier or more deserving of being overthrown. The civilian government in Panama is a puppet of the Panamanian military, and there is not even a pretense anymore of civilian officials running the country's affairs.

In addition, it is widely believed that Noriega operates a vital link in the international drug traffic, from which he makes millions and for which he has been indicted in the United States. Last May, the country held presidential elections, but Noriega indicated that his opponents would win. [sentence as published]

Given this character of the Noriega regime, only a heart of stone would be sorry to see him removed from power.

But praying for Noriega's overthrow by the Panamanian people and military is one thing; for a foreign government to actually invade Panama in order to boot him out is something else. Moving from the one to the other is to cross the delicate line between permissible international censure of an oppressive regime and an illegal and dangerous course of foreign intervention in the affairs of a sovereign nation.

For the U.S., this transition from cheerleader to invader was made practicable by the fact that Panama stands astride the famous and vital waterway in the Americas and that the U.S. has military forces based in that country. U.S. interests and presence, combined with the odious character of the Noriega regime, clinched the case for intervention in Panama some time back in Washington D.C. The killing of an American soldier last Tuesday was just the trigger.

It is questionable, however, whether the rest of the world will be similarly persuaded. In the long sad story of this century, many have been the instances of one nation invading another for all sorts of "good" reasons, but the results have nearly always been bad for the country that was the object of solicitude as well as for the would-be benefactor. And each time, grievous injury was done to the principle of national self-determination so vital to peace and stability among nations.

The bitter fruit of prolonged conflict and instability was reaped when the U.S. intervened in South Vietnam to save it from communism. The same was reaped by the Soviet Union when it intervened in Afghanistan this time to save communism. The same was harvested when Vietnam in turn invaded Cambodia to save it from Pol Pot. And these are just three examples from a long and sorry record.

History in short has made memorably plain that intervention is a remedy worse than the disease.

In the current U.S. invasion of Panama, even if the U.S. succeeds in deposing Noriega (as now appears) or it effects his capture (which remains a question), this affair will leave a bitter aftertaste that will not easily be forgotten. Anxiety for their sovereignty will flame anew in many Third World countries, where political stability continues to be a struggle. South America, already a precarious continent because of failing economies, could drift into new instability. And the U.S. while feeling relief from the removal of an annoying despot, must face the consequences of its decision in new complications for its diplomacy.

It is not irrelevant or untimely for the Philippines to reflect long and hard on these developments in Panama with a view to learning lessons for itself. U.S. intervention in the recent coup attempt in Manila is kindered to the U.S. invasion in Panama, however the former may be dwarfed in scale. And the presence of the U.S. military bases here should sear in our minds the fact that it takes only one signal from Washington to turn guest troops in our midst into invaders.

Government, Rebels Declare Holiday Cease-Fire

Communists Issue Directive

HK2112042989 Manila *PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE*
in English 21 Dec 89 p 9

[By staff writer Julius Fortuna]

[Text] Communist rebels had declared a unilateral cease-fire from December 16 up to midnight of January 1, 1990, it was learned yesterday from sources in the underground movement.

The directive, which has already been relayed to all units of the New People's Army (NPA) in 65 of the country's 74 provinces, called on all armed units to stop ambushes, raids and other forms of "offensive military action" against the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU).

The rebels, however, are to fire back in defense of their forces or positions. In such instances, prolonged encounters should be avoided, the sources said, quoting from the directive issued by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

But some guerrillas apparently have not gotten the word. On December 16, rebels attacked a paper company factory and a military detachment in Agusan del Sur, killing six militiamen.

Two days later, an NPA "Sparrow" hit squad shot down a police captain in Paranaque, Metro Manila. On Monday, NPA rebels clashed with Army troopers in Bukidnon. Six guerrillas were killed.

The CPP marks its 21st founding anniversary on December 26.

The party sources said that as in past Christmas seasons, communist guerrillas will stop firing to respect the Christmas tradition of the Filipinos.

The sources said that the cease-fire is unilateral. "We will just avoid tactical offensives," the sources said.

The communist guerrillas have been waging an armed struggle against the government since 1968 under the direction of the Maoist CPP. It claims to have forces on major islands in the country and also armed units in several cities.

The communist movement also declared a cease-fire in 1987 when the government and the National Democratic Front entered into negotiations with the Aquino government.

The cease-fire was supposed to start talks on the political demands of the rebels, but it later bogged down after the government rejected rebel demands for a coalition government and basic reforms.

Last year, the rebels declared a unilateral cease-fire from December 16 to January 1, which the government matched with a similar declaration.

But reports from rebel ranks indicated that the rebels will push through with a major military campaign after New Year's Day.

Leading party members from Northern Luzon were reported as saying that the rebels are mounting a campaign to defeat the AFP's "constriction" strategy.

The communist guerrillas said the beginning of the 1990s will be an excellent time to further expand their forces, citing the divisions within the military establishment as an ideal situation for mounting more campaigns.

Defense and military officials said that since the December 1-9 coup, the communist rebels have launched 17 military operations against government forces.

A directive of the CPP National Organization Commission said the party will conduct "stirring struggles" against government forces, which analysts believe to be a combination of both armed and unarmed operations to be conducted in both the cities and the countryside.

The communists have likewise intensified their propaganda campaign abroad. Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr., Philippine ambassador to West Germany, reported to the home office that the National Democratic Front has stepped up its propaganda campaign in major European capitals.

Montano Opposes Measure

HK2112093789 Manila *Manila Broadcasting Company*
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Dec 89

[By Vic Pambuan of Mobile No 13]

[Text] Ramon Montano, Police Constabulary-Integrated National Police [PC-INP] chief major general, is opposed to a cease-fire with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] and rebel soldiers who are threatening to attack the government this Christmas. He gave this response when Malacanang reporters asked him if the palace will declare a cease-fire during the yuletide season. Montano said the military continues to carry out operations against the CPP-NPA, especially now that the communist rebels have engaged in a series of ambushes on police and military officials.

He further said that the PC-INP is on red alert status due to threats of renewed attacks from the Reform the Armed Forces Movement. Montano stressed that the government will never declare a cease-fire with the rebel soldiers, CPP-NPA, and criminals. According to him, it is up to the enemies if they want to declare a cease-fire. He clarified that he is divesting all regional commanders nationwide with the power to issue special permits to carry firearms. He has issued a firearms ban. Montano also said that only he and Colonel Jess Andaya, chief of the firearms and explosives unit can issue special permits at their office in Camp Crame.

[Begin Montano recording in English] No, we continue our operations against them. If they want to declare a unilateral cease-fire, it is up to them. As far as we are concerned, our operations continue. [end recording]

Military To Be on Alert

HK2212054389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0530 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Manila, Dec 22 (AFP)—Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos Friday declared a unilateral cease-fire in its fight against communist insurgents for Christmas and New Year, but said the military will remain on full alert to guard vital military and government installations. Mr. Ramos said in a statement that the Armed Forces "will unilaterally declare a...cessation of offensive military operations" on December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

Earlier this week, National Democratic Front (NDF), a communist-led coalition, declared a temporary truce on the same dates.

Mr. Ramos said the military would maintain "a high state of alert" throughout the holiday season, and that it "reserves the initiative" to protect the public and vital government installations and "to conduct law enforcement operations in support of law enforcement agencies." The announcement came two weeks after the government crushed a coup attempt by rebel soldiers.

President Corazon Aquino Thursday minimized the effect of the putsch on the military's capability to deal with the 20-year-old communist insurgency.

The government and the NDF called a joint cease-fire during the 1986-1987 Christmas season while peace negotiations—which eventually failed—were going on. The NDF is an umbrella organization which includes the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines and its combat wing, the New People's Army, which experts estimate has 10,000 to 15,000 fighters.

Aquino Approves Declaration

HK2212091789 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Report by Vic Pambuan from Malacanang Palace]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has approved a declaration of a cease-fire by the Department of National

Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In the president's memorandum approving a recommendation by Secretary Fidel Ramos to declare a cease-fire during the holiday season, it was stated that the cease-fire period will last for 48 hours from 0100 at 24 December to 0100 at 26 December, while a second cease-fire period will commence from 0100 at 31 December until 0100 2 January, for a total of 48 hours.

Here is the president's statement as read by Press Secretary Azcuna:

[Begin Azcuna recording in English] The president has approved today the joint recommendation of the secretary of national defense and the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] as follows:

The AFP will unilaterally declare a unilateral cessation of offensive military operations, the same as it did during the 1987 and 1988 holiday seasons, for the following periods: from 1 am of December 24, 1989 to 1 am of December 26, 1989 for 48 hours, and from 1 am of December 31, 1989 to 1 am of January 2, 1990 for another 48 hours.

However, the AFP maintains a high state of alert throughout, reserves the initiative to operate to protect the public, vital installations, and military-police detachments, and to conduct law enforcement operations in support of law enforcement agencies, the same as in 1987 and 1988. [end recording]

Reportage on Activities of Communist Rebels

Raid Town in Quezon

HK1912055789 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Dec 89 pp 1, 19

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Sampaloc, Quezon—Some 150 heavily armed New People's Army (NPA) rebels raided this town yesterday, wounding four government troopers and two civilians in a firefight.

Col Reynaldo G. Wycoco, Quezon PC [Philippine Constabulary] commander, helicoptered here with troops from the 231st and PC headquarters and personally led the operations against the raiders.

Wycoco, in a report to Brig Gen Evaristo G. Carino, Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) acting chief and Recom 4 PC-INP [Integrated National Police] chief, said that the rebels could have seized the town hall, municipal treasury and police station had it not been for the immediate arrival of reinforcement troops which he led.

Twenty-one PC, police, and militia men defended the town hall and their headquarters and exchanged gunfire with the rebels.

Those wounded were identified by Wycoco as CIC [Constable 1st Class] Romeo Dayo, Pfc. Rolando Galicia, and Gregorio Camata, militia man.

Fireman Leodegario Mendoza was also wounded and reported missing.

The two civilians who were caught in the crossfire were Soledad Salvallones, 63, and her 21-year-old daughter who was not identified.

They were taken to the Quezon Memorial Hospital in Lucena City and the Tayabas Community Hospital in Tayabas where they were pronounced out of danger.

According to Wycoco, the NPA rebels set up a checkpoint on the national road and stopped all vehicles.

Sampaloc chief of police, Sgt E. Elardo, said that some of the rebels were wounded and may have been killed during the firefight.

The rebels fled with firearms taken from the wounded soldiers when government reinforcement troops arrived, he said.

Col Wycoco and two helicopter gunships had a hard time reaching this town due to zero visibility.

Wycoco said the rebels tried to ransack the municipal treasury but when they heard the helicopter gunships coming in, they withdrew bringing with them their dead and wounded companions.

Brig Gen Carino and Brig Gen Thelmo Cunanan, 2nd division chief of the Army, launched a manhunt against the rebels who fled towards Atimonan and Padre Burgos towns.

Skirmishes in Agusan, Aurora

HK1912055189 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 19 Dec 89 p 6

[By correspondents Ritchie Salloman and Noemi Alcala]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City—Communist guerrillas attacked almost simultaneously Saturday a government-owned paper company and a military detachment, killing three militiamen and taking hostage five others in Agusan del Sur.

Reports reaching Camp Edilberto Evangelista said that the rebels, who were aboard two commandeered vehicles, killed three members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and took hostage five other militiamen in a fierce gun battle when the rebels raided the Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines (Picop) in Barangay Masabong, Rosario, about 200 kilometers east of here.

The reports said that the attack on the paper company came only a few minutes after New People's Army [NPA] rebels assaulted and burned a paramilitary

detachment in Barangay Mabuhay, Prosperidad, also in Agusan del Sur. No casualties were reported.

The rebels were believed to be members of the north-eastern Mindanao Revolutionary Party Committee led by a certain "Kumander [Commander] Aliwas" and "Kumander Gabriela," a woman guerrilla belonging to the NPA's Buhawi Command operating on the border of Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon and Davao del Norte.

Col. Rogelio Navarro, chief of the Army civil-military operations, identified the slain militiamen as Eulogio Tubigon, Ron Jadman and a CAFGU cadre identified only as Lupo.

Taken hostage were Lito Legacion, Wilfredo Briz, Ranilo Leyno, Casiano Claros, and Rodrigo Araganas.

Navarro said the rebels had blockaded roads leading to the Picop compound, thus preventing elements of the 28th Infantry Battalion from reinforcing the militiamen. He said a platoon of CAFGU members who had tried to reinforce the beleaguered troops was ambushed by the rebels.

The rebels later fled on foot toward a forested area, bringing with them their wounded comrades. Government troops backed by two V-150 Commando vehicles pursued the rebels.

Meanwhile, four communist rebels were killed while a still undetermined number of insurgents were wounded in an encounter with government troops Sunday afternoon in San Luis, Aurora province.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo yesterday said elements of the "C" Company, 70th Infantry Battalion, under a First Lieutenant Cartagena were conducting security operations in the area when they chanced upon a band of heavily armed communist rebels.

Brig. Gen. Ernesto Calupig, 7th Infantry Division commanders, reported that some 25 armed NPA rebels engaged Cartagena's men in a fierce, running gun battle that lasted for an hour in the vicinity of Barangay El Pimentel, San Luis, Aurora.

An operating team from the 703rd Brigade led by a Lieutenant Colonel Rimando and a Major Villacorte were immediately dispatched to reinforce the engaged troops, Calupig said. The team arrived with an armored vehicle.

Aside from the four NPAs killed during the fierce battles several others appeared to have been wounded, Calupig said, as indicated by traces of blood along their escape route.

PC [Philippine Constabulary] recovered from the encounter scene three M-16 rifles, one severely damaged M-1 Garand rifle, three Icom radio sets, one Icom base antenna and 15 combat packs full of voluminous subversive documents.

The encounter in Aurora followed a warning by AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa that the NPAs would take advantage of the postcoup tension and confusion.

De Villa earlier said that the NPAs launched 17 ambushes and attacks on detachments and municipal halls from December 1 to 11, including a successful ambushcade of a military convoy in Catuanan, Quezon, where reports said the rebels were able to capture a V-150 armored personnel carrier.

Radio Reports Update Situation in Mindanao

Security Tightened

HK1912032789 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Security measures have been tightened around major airports and other possible key terrorist targets in Mindanao. Southcom [Southern Command] Chief Brigadier General Guillermo Flores said his command has launched Oplan [operational plan] Counterforce as a preemptive measure against military renegades, Muslim secessionists, and communist rebels who may try again to seize power.

In Cebu City, Brigadier General Raul Imperial, Central Visayas constabulary police commander, said checkpoints will again be set up in the Metro Cebu area in the wake of reports of another military uprising threatening Mindanao. He said mobile checkpoints will be set up by the metropolitan district command. Imperial said the military in the region has imposed the suspension of the issuance of permits to carry firearms by civilians while the country is still in crisis. According to the regional constabulary and police commander, higher military authorities had earlier ordered the suspension of all permits allowing civilians to carry firearms.

Uprising 'Dissipated'

HK2012025189 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Threat of another uprising by renegade soldiers in Mindanao has been dissipated, according to Constabulary Chief Major General Ramon Montano. Rebel troops led by Army Colonel Alexander Noble have fled to upper (Yunngoog) in Misamis Oriental, where they have set up camp as of Monday night, according to Montano. Montano said Baccay informed him that rebel soldiers have gone into hiding after a 500-man Philippine Marine contingent arrived in Davao City to augment government troops in the region. He said the rebel troops and government forces are now engaged in hide and seek. The leader of the rebellious troops, Colonel Noble, was the former chief of staff of the elite Presidential Security Group of President Aquino.

Government Closes Davao Radio Station

HK2012141589 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Dec 89 p 8

[By Isagani Zarate]

[Text] Davao City—A sequestered radio station where anti-communist broadcaster Jun Pala airs his daily commentaries was closed by the government Wednesday for alleged dissemination of "false, inaccurate and misleading news and information over the airwaves."

The closure order, signed by Acting Commissioner Josefina Lichauco, ordered DXOW of the Radio Pilipino Corp. [RPC] "to cease and desist from its broadcast operation" until the order is lifted. RPC is a sequestered company owned by former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco.

Invoking President Aquino's proclamation of state of emergency, the NTC [National Telecommunications Commission] said the closure is "in the interest of the state, public order and security."

DXOW had been used by Pala criticising the Aquino government for its alleged misadministration of the country's affairs. Pala also only expressed his support to the issues raised in the failed December coup attempt.

DXOW was the third radio station closed by the government, the other two were in Manila and Cebu.

The closure was received with apprehension by several quarters here. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, whom Pala had also criticized in the past, opposed the move saying it violated press freedom.

"It only goes to show that the government is incapable of surviving intrigues," Duterte said.

Gil Abarico, city press secretary, on his part, said the closure "was a dark portent of things to come."

Abarico, in a statement, urged local media practitioners here to "stand as one for the preservation of media freedom which now appears threatened by the so-called guardians of democracy in this country."

Pala on the other hand, said the closure is a "manifestation of the government's double standard democracy."

"You can't solve the rebellion by closing the media," Pala said, adding that the preservation of democracy cannot be attained by "using the weapon of dictatorship."

Intelligence Chief Testifies on Military Support

HK1812142389 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 15 Dec 89 pp 1, 11

[Text] Sixty to seventy percent of the entire Armed Forces would accept or support whatever government emerges victorious after a mutiny or coup that is likely to occur in the next six months, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) chief Rodolfo Canieso surmised yesterday.

Canieso told the Senate subcommittee on intelligence oversight that this estimate was his "value judgment" of the current state of the military which like the entire Philippine society is "in a state of political flux."

Meanwhile, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned that "troop movements" by the Dec. 1 putschists—who have reportedly joined forces with Mindanao secessionist movements—are supposed to begin "this Sunday or next Sunday."

The "signal" for the launching of an uprising in Mindanao is supposed to be their taking over the Central Bank headquarters in Davao, he said, adding that a renegade colonel has supposedly mobilized 1,000 members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units [CAFGU] in the South.

His warnings dovetailed with Canieso's own that especially in Mindanao and the Visayas, "there are events being planned that is...a political move below the level of a coup d'etat."

"We don't have concrete acts but it is brewing," he said of reports that political groups with military backing are planning, as Phase 3 of the December 1 coup, to unilaterally declare a federal republic of Mindanao and then Visayas.

Earlier, there have been reports that the December 1 mutineers had linked up with the Mindanao Independence Movement.

Canieso explained his views on "possible fence-sitters" in reply to a question by Sen. Ernesto Maceda on how many in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] were to be such should a coup attempt be launched within the next six months.

"A guess of 60% to 70% would be fair. Sixty to seventy percent will stay put and 30% will fight in favor of whatever cause," Canieso said. Even if they did not support the winning government, "they will (at least just) float with it."

He said a coup attempt in the next six months is "possible," as compared to the more likely chance conveyed in the adjective "probable." However, he warned of trouble brewing in the South in the form of a "political move below the level of a coup d'etat."

Pimentel added that Col. Alexander Noble, a former Presidential Security Group member, had been sighted somewhere between Misamis Oriental and Agusan del Sur and had reportedly mobilized 1,000 Cagfus to aid the rebels' cause.

Nevertheless, he said, the military leadership in Region 10 is already preparing for the unrest. Pimentel added that a congressman was involved in the planned uprising, but declined to identify the official.

Canieso said that further rebel action ranged from a minimum of mutiny to a maximum of a coup designed

to grab state power and warned legislators that the Mindanao trouble would be a "messy political problem." Should the rebels proceed to declare a republic in the South, he said some local officials could be "removed" by their rivals who had the backing of the mutinous rebels.

Finally, Canieso likened the military's sentiments and actions to the 1986 EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolution, during which only less than 10% of the AFP strongly fought Marcos and "others were just sitting (there)."

Ironically, the anti-Marcos officers and men are the same ones fighting the Aquino Government, Canieso pointed out, adding that several were still active in the current AFP.

Asked by subcommittee chairman Sen. Meamintal Tamano if the intelligence community had information of the December 1 coup, Canieso said yes, and that the probability of it occurring had been present as early as renegade Colonel Gregorio Honasan's escape from a Navy ship in April 1988.

Column Advocates Military Budget Cuts

HK1912055989 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 19 Dec 89 p 4

["On the Level" column by A.R. Magno: "Is the AFP Overarmed?"]

[Text] There is a lingering presupposition in political analysis that power is a function of size.

In the aftermath of a failed coup attempt, there is much talk about how the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] could be cured of its destabilizing dispositions. My proposal is simple: cut it down to proper proportion.

There is something quite deceptive in all this gibberish about "indoctrinating" the officers and men of the AFP in the ways of constitutional life. This line of discourse calls attention away from an examination of the structure and size of the AFP in relation to the other components of Government. It makes it appear that the problem is merely attitudinal, one that can be corrected by a few seminars.

Beyond identifying the conspirators in this latest mutiny, the problem of recurring coup attempts must be located in the context of institutional changes that have been occurring over the last few years.

Let us not forget that through the period of martial rule, the AFP grew from a force of about 60,000 men to over 350,000. Its share of national expenditure grew by an even more dramatic rate.

During the period of dictatorship, the line between civilian and military authority was blurred. The AFP was not simply a component of Government; it was the backbone of an autocratic regime.

After February 1986, the institutions of civilian authority underwent a process of transformation. The principle of separation of powers was restored. The state was reoriented from economic interventionism to privatization. There is, ongoing, an effort to reduce the absolute size of the civilian bureaucracy.

While all these changes were taking place on the civilian side, the military organization not only remained constant but received additional budgetary outlays for pay increases. On top of this, the AFP has requested additional funds to organize CAFGU [Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit] units.

The AFP has been able to secure its corporate interests in spite of recurrent coup attempts. It has secured concessions from the civilian authority as a form of appeasement, on the theory that better-paid soldiers shall be loyal to the Constitution.

The entire process adds up to this: while Government has grown smaller, the military has grown larger. The anomaly is justified on the premises of a national security ideology that treats the insurgency as a primarily military rather than socio-political program.

The problem of recurrent coup attempts shall not be solved by giving the AFP larger budgetary outlays and more arms. The problem must be approached in terms of correcting the disproportions between military and civilian institutions.

For as long as the military, as an organization, is large enough to supplant the civilian leadership, the temptation to grab power by force shall always be there. The seduction for the military to act as ombudsman of civil rule shall always be present.

After a new Government was installed three years ago, we were promised a "lean and mean" military organization that performs its mandated functions without draining funds from economic investments and social services. To date, the AFP is an organization laden with much fat.

There is every indication that the AFP is overly large and overarmed. It has too much armor and too many combat personnel in the metropolis, a factor that makes a power grab a material possibility. The Constabulary continues to perform functions that ought to be discharged by civilian police agencies.

It is not enough to merely punish the errant officers and men involved in this last coup attempt. The entire organizational disposition of the AFP must be subjected to close and critical scrutiny.

As the armed insurgency winds down, so must the AFP be trimmed to manageable size. The military bureaucracy must be reduced at least at the same rate as the civilian bureaucracy. As is the case in the civilian bureaucracy, pay adjustments in the military must be

funded by internal savings and not by special appropriation. Civil bureaucrats are as susceptible to demoralization as soldiers.

It is not enough for the AFP leadership to loudly declare adherence to constitutional rule. They must be prepared to take cuts in their corporate turf to achieve the institutional balance necessary for the continuation of civilian rule.

Constabulary Chief Knew About Coup Plan in July

HK1912062289 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] The Constabulary was aware of the rebels' coup plan as early as July. Constabulary Chief Major General Ramon Montano said the first hint of impending trouble came when he was informed by young constabulary officials that they were being urged to join the rebel soldiers. Montano then immediately issued a memorandum ordering seminars and dialogues for all field commanders and provincial commanders in order to combat the propaganda by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement. Montano added that this came at a time when heated debate about the controversial Philippine national police bill was going on.

Congressman Names Four Possible Coup Leaders

HK1812135389 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Bukidnon Congressman Jose Zubiri today named four noted personalities as possible leaders of the December 1 failed coup. Zubiri identified the four as former assemblyman Homobono Adaza, Mindanao Independence Movement chairman Reuben Canoy, former Bukidnon Governor Carlos Fortich, and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Noble of the 4th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army.

Earl Sapilino reports:

[Begin recording] Zubiri said vital documents now in the hands of the military showed that the four met in a farmhouse in Bukidnon a week before the failed coup was launched. Zubiri also told newsmen that some 40 officials of the 4th Infantry Battalion tendered their resignation before the coup, but these, he said, were turned down.

Zubiri said a military uprising in Mindanao will never materialize since the Mindanao Independence Movement counts only landlords opposed to the agrarian reform program as members. [end recording]

Opposition Leader Cites Rebels' Lack of Agenda

HK1812134189 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Blas Ople, secretary general of the Nacionalista Party, has strongly condemned the rebel soldiers' failure

to present a political agenda in pressing for the overthrow of the government. Ople warned about a possible secret military party behind the coup. He also said that it was impossible for people to follow and support the rebel soldiers without knowing their government program.

Survey on Emergency Declaration Publicized

*HK1912114789 Quezon City Sports Radio 738
in English 1100 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] The majority of the Filipino people favors the declaration of a state of national emergency by President Aquino. A survey conducted by the Philippine Information Agency showed that 64 percent of the people supported the proclamation. The survey also that only 16 percent opposed the move of the president.

On the other hand, 10 percent of the respondents were undecided, while the remaining 10 percent had no opinion.

The survey of the Philippine Information Agency has 3,211 respondents, representing a cross-section of the Filipino people. The majority of those who supported the declaration of a state of national emergency also said it is necessary for the nation to speed up the reconstruction of the country's economy. They also thought the move of the president would stop once and for all coup attempts by military adventurists.

Ramos Asks Critics To Await Cabinet Revamp

*HK1812134789 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[From the "GMA News" program]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today responded to a demand by the Nacionalista Party for him to lead a mass resignation of cabinet members. According to Secretary Ramos, every appointed government official serves at the pleasure of the president and, since the president has already announced a cabinet revamp before the end of the year, he urged his critics to wait for President Aquino's cabinet reshuffle.

Debate Continues on Controls on Media

Defense Department Comments

*HK1812133389 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[Text] The Department of National Defense has issued an assurance that it will not order the closedown of any newspaper or print media during a crisis, such as the most recent coup attempt. According to Defense Undersecretary Leo Quisumbing, the Constitution clearly states that charges can be filed against the print media for violating the revised penal code, but their office cannot be ordered closed. However, he said media using

the airwaves, such as radio and television, are different, and can be closed down the moment the country's security is at stake.

[Begin Quisumbing recording in English] That insofar as when [word indistinct] of radio stations or TV stations are concerned, they are covered by another government law—that's PD [Presidential Decree] 36 and the successive executive orders. And we do not need a law for that. That's already provided for. Because they are utilizing public airwaves and they are public property, so they can be controlled. But I think General De Villa has been misunderstood. He did not propose the closing of media. It was a letter drafted by the judge advocate general, who made certain proposals which are for briefing purposes only. And the reply brief of our assistant secretary for legal affairs is very clear. We cannot do that to the print media. [end recording]

Congressman Criticizes Guidelines

*HK1912095589 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] The National Telecommunications Commission [NTC] has come under attack in the House of Representatives for its new guidelines on the broadcast media.

Representative Hermogenes Concepcion Jr, House Constitutional Amendment Committee chairman, described the new guidelines as an infringement on freedom of speech.

[Begin recording in English] The new guidelines, in effect, threaten and prevent members of the media, particularly radio stations, from airing matters of public concern that come from criticisms of the government. For instance, critics of the government are prohibited from being aired. That is a denial of the right of the public to information on matters of public concern. Likewise, the movement of government troops and vehicles etc are prohibited from being broadcast. In case of any armed conflict, the public has a right to know where to find a safe place, what is happening, so that they can take steps to protect themselves. [end recording]

That was the reaction of the former Supreme Court justice on the guidelines issued by the NTC to cover broadcast media.

Editorial on Alleged Inaccuracies

*HK1912055589 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 19 Dec 89 pp 1, 4*

[Editorial: "The Reader, Not AFP, Decides INQUIRER's Fate"]

[Text] We are disturbed by signs that the Aquino administration is falling for an insidious idea to crack down on "uncooperative" media. One report even quoted Gen Renato de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, as wanting to close the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER at the height of the last coup attempt for stories he did not like.

Yesterday, President Aquino was reported to have said in a press conference that the government would close broadcast stations that air rebel propaganda and file charges against publications that incite to rebellion.

Earlier, the National Telecommunications Commission [NTC] handed down restrictive guidelines for radio and television to follow under pain of sanctions that include outright closure. During the coup, the NTC had actually silenced some radio stations that had aired rebel statements in their effort to balance reportage.

The President told media yesterday that the planned government crackdown on newspapers will be based on articles that "incite to rebellion." "If such an article does appear...then we will go to court to file charges against the erring individual or the publication," she said.

While the President mentioned court action instead of arbitrary closure, still we cannot help raising an alarm that the Aquino administration appears to be moving slowly toward tighter restrictions on the press. We can only view with concern this threat to press freedom, especially because this administration had pledged to be the exact opposite of the Marcos regime that had institutionalized news management and the muzzling of media. Even then, the Marcoses could not maintain their tight control on the media forever, and the public's hunger for truth, for objective, accurate and factual news eventually led to the creation of a slew of "alternative" publications.

As regards De Villa's reported plan to close the *INQUIRER*, we can only say that the General better stick to soldiering and leave newspapering to those who understand its mission and operations. The General already has his hands full cleaning the military stables, making his soldiers salute and say "Sir" properly, pleading with them to please stop hijacking cargo shipments, robbing banks and carjacking vehicles. This busy man should not dabble in press censorship.

It is not for the military to decide whether or not the *INQUIRER* is to be closed. If a newspaper publishes distorted or false reports, the people themselves will impose sanctions by refusing to read it and in effect force it to cease publishing. In matters pertaining to libel, inciting to rebellion and other media-related crimes, the courts—not the military—will decide what must be done.

Ultimately, it is the people, the reader, who will determine if the *INQUIRER* should continue publishing—not a soldier, even if he happens to be the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff.

While the *INQUIRER* has been editorially supportive of duly constituted authority and the loyal forces of the military—even on that crucial Day One of the last coup attempt when the government was on the verge of defeat—this paper has not hesitated to report on the corruption, incompetence, and the breakdown of leadership and discipline in the Armed Forces.

We assure our readers that we will continue our critical reportage whenever the facts and circumstances call for it. If being harassed is the price we have to pay for our independence, we are ready to pay the price.

We are disturbed not so much by this renewed threat of the military to padlock the *INQUIRER*—we think we can very well look after ourselves—but by the mental state of a military machine that has arrogated political and judicial powers unto itself and that has come to hold itself superior to civilian authority.

All freedom-loving Filipinos, especially our reader, should note this and stand ever vigilant.

Paper Views Shutdown Threat

HK1912055389 Manila *PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE*
in English 19 Dec 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Showdown With the Press?"]

[Text] President Aquino has declared that the government will shut down radio stations airing rebel propaganda and will sue in court newspapers publishing articles that "incite rebellion."

The press will be jumping all over this. We cannot imagine why. There is good cause, indeed, to shut down a radio station that exposes government forces to hostile fire or airs outright the propaganda of a coup that is clearly bent on overthrowing democracy and the government by illegal means.

Quite rightly, the President says that newspapers inciting to rebellion will be sued. But not shut down. She is well advised to make the distinction because freedom of the press is the greatest of the constitutional guarantees. It is more important than the survival of a government.

We wonder therefore, in light of the government's circumspect regard for the media, why there is so much fearful speculation in the press about government's intentions. Statements of government and military officials are carefully analyzed for any hint of a threat to press freedom.

This is a waste of time. The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff can express every foolish hope about gagging the press so the public will not know how badly the AFP handled the last coup. The incompetent Aquino Cabinet can wish that a cowed press will desist from exposing to an angry public the sufferings they have endured at its hands. It will avail them nothing. For the press will continue to publish the truth about the stupidity, graft and mendacity of officials who have brought the idea of democracy so low in the esteem of the public and the Armed Forces, whatever the government says. This cannot be inciting to rebellion. It is in fact an act of patriotism.

The only thing objectionable that government has done is focus on the media as though they were responsible for the outbreak of the coup. The responsibility for that, we

have said, lies with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, half of which regularly entertains treason, while half, loyal to the government, does not seem to be aware of what the other half is thinking. That the media are used as a scapegoat should surprise no one who has studied the intellectual caliber of a government that knows only it is afraid of the Armed Forces.

There is no danger to the press from recent developments. Certainly the proposed Emergency Power Act, aimed at economic profiteers, puts no one in peril except certain officials of the Aquino government who have used their offices to feather their businesses.

Quite the contrary, the greater danger is to the government. As a last measure of desperation, the Congress and the people have reposed on it extraordinary powers to correct problems largely of its own making. This is clear from the provisions of the emergency powers bill that mandates the President to fix up, among others, the transportation mess and the energy crisis. If the Aquino government uses its extraordinary powers not to put a broken nation aright but rather to shield those responsible for its ills, that is its own lookout.

As for the press, it must learn not to consult its fears or the government for the protection of its rights. Governments have never defended free speech. Not this administration, not the previous one. Because it is not the job of governments to do so. It is the job of the Supreme Court in the last instance, and of a courageous press in the first.

The press has a power that rests squarely, unequivocally, on the Constitution's greatest guarantee—freedom of the press. This is more than government can claim with respect to most of its actions today. That guarantee, combined with courage and integrity, will be enough to protect it.

We do not believe that this government, which has repelled an attempt to install a military tyranny, is interested in a showdown with the newspapers. Perhaps, one or two incompetents, including a doctor who fancies himself a statesman, may harbor the delusion that such a contest can be won. To those who believe this, we say, we are good for the challenge. Try it.

Government-Business Task Forces Approved

HK1912120189 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 19 Dec 89

[From the "GMA News" program]

[Text] President Aquino today approved the creation of 12 task forces to help resolve some of the more pressing issues in the country. In a meeting this morning, business leaders agreed to take part in government programs. The task forces, to be composed of business leaders and government officials, will help tackle the problems in transportation, administration of justice, delivery of

basic services, monetary and fiscal matters, public information campaigns, exports of products, countryside development, food supply in Metro Manila, and consultation with various sectors in society.

According to Jesus Estanislao, National Economic and Development Authority director general, the private sector also wanted to help monitor the trials of rebel soldiers. It also wanted to help ease traffic along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue [EDSA] by expanding the traffic sentinel system.

[Begin Estanislao recording in English in progress] ...in clearing up the transportation mess we have in EDSA and they have decided to spend their own resources so that the *pook batayan* [traffic sentinel system] is not going to be just on intersections but will cover the entire stretch of EDSA. So, all of these will come under [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Government Signs Loan Accord With ADB

HK1912054989 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 19 Dec 89 pp 1, 6

[By Margaret Grey]

[Text] The Philippines and the Asian Development Bank [ADB] yesterday signed three loans totalling \$322 million. Government is the debtor, channelling \$160 million to the National Power Corp. [NPC], \$130 million to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System [MWSS] and \$32 million to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR] for a low-income upland communities project.

After the signing, Finance Secretary Vicente R. Jayme told reporters the ADB loans were the first signed by the country since the failed coup early this month and reflected the Bank's continued confidence in the country's economy.

Both the NPC and MWSS loans carry pool-based variable interest rates. In the case of NPC, the loan is payable in 20 years inclusive of a four-year grace period. The MWSS loan, on the other hand, matures in 25 years inclusive of a five-year grace.

The upland communities project comes from the concessional Asian Development Fund and matures in 35 years inclusive of a 10-year grace with a service charge of 1% per annum.

The foreign component of the NPC loan, called the 15th power sector project, is entirely financed by ADB. The balance local currency cost of \$40 million will be raised by Napocur.

By mid-1993, the project hopes to have developed six of twenty targetted 20-megawatt geothermal power units nationwide; one or two transmission schemes linking certain major islands to the Luzon interconnected grid; improve NPC's operation and maintenance of power

generation and transmission facilities; and 15 small diesel power stations to augment power supply in areas outside NPC's main grids.

For the MWSS project, called the Angat Water Supply Optimization Project, ADB will only be one of several foreign creditors.

The World Bank agreed last month to finance the project with \$40 million at 6.5% interest over a 20-year tenor.

Locally, the MWSS project will also have to raise \$27.3 million from its resources, \$29.1 million from Government, and \$57.1 million from the local market. Yesterday, MWSS Administrator Luis V.Z. Sison signed a P2.3 billion bond issue with the Philippine National Bank (PNB) and the Union Bank of the Philippines (UBP) as lead underwriters.

PNB and UBP have purchased the P230 million first tranche and Citibank N.A., City Trust Banking Corp., and the Government Service Insurance System have signed up for the P230 million second tranche in March.

Essentially, the Angat project includes the construction of a 77-meter-long branch penstock and a power house equipped with an 18,520 kilowatt turbine and a 20,000 kilovolt amperes; excavation and necessary lining of a 6.2-kilometer-long pressure tunnel; construction of a 16.1-km-long aqueduct; building and equipping of a water treatment plant with 900,000 cubic meters a day of treatment capacity; construction of one water reservoir with total storage volume of 260,000 cu.m.; construction of some 520 km. of distribution pipeline, five pumping stations, and 345,000 service connections; and construction of a 12-km. transmission line for Bulacan bulk water.

For the upland communities project, which is Government's initial attempt at addressing on an integrated level the ecological needs of the country's watersheds and the socio-economic needs of the upland communities, the ADB loan will provide the bulk of the \$39.6 million total cost.

The balance \$7.6 million will be funded by Government. Aside from DENR, other executing agencies are the provincial governments of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro.

Large Loans From IMF, World Bank Expected

*HK1912113789 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] The Philippines is expected to receive a loan of \$620 million from the IMF, the World Bank, and the Japan Export-Import Bank. This was announced today by Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme.

According to Jayme, the loan will be used for a debt buy-back scheme to repay the country's huge foreign debts. Tanny Rodriguez has the details:

[Begin recording] In an interview after his meeting with President Aquino at Malacanang, Jayme said the government hopes to obtain the whole amount either by the end of the year or in January next year. He says the World Bank will grant the country \$200 million, the IMF \$120 million, and the Japan Export-Import Bank \$300 million.

Meanwhile, the president received assurances from Japan's Mitsubishi Company that it will proceed with a plan to invest \$60 million in a car assembly project in the country. The news was announced to newsmen by Jesus Estandis, national economic and development authority secretary general, after his meeting with the president. According to Estandis, the government is continuing its efforts to attract foreign investments.

For Philippine Broadcasting Service News, this is Tanny Rodriguez reporting from Malacanang. [end recording]

In a related development, the president expressed satisfaction with the positive steps taken by the U.S. Government in continuing its economic assistance to the country through contributions to the Multilateral Aid Initiative [MAI], or Philippine Assistance Program. The U.S. Government promised to allocate \$200 million to the Philippine Assistance Program.

Details from Tanny Rodriguez:

[Begin recording] This was the message conveyed by the chief executive to President George Bush in a letter sent through Elliot Richardson, special representative for the MAI, to Washington, DC.

In her letter, the chief executive stated that assistance through allocation of funds to the MAI will help strengthen democracy in the Philippines. The president also said that despite efforts by some groups to belittle the government's efforts to raise the living standards of its people, she would do everything to thwart such sinister efforts and safeguard peace and freedom in the country. [end recording]

Gross Capital Formation Down in Third Quarter

*HK1912054789 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 19 Dec 89 p 2*

[Indicator] column: "Real Investments"

[Text] Gross capital formation during the third quarter of 1989 decreased by 2% or P84 million compared to its level in the same period last year. Fixed capital grew by 13.6%.

The P84-million difference in real investments was due to the decline in the country's stocks. This inventory, which includes finished and unfinished goods either held or sold, dipped by 94.3%.

Significant increases in fixed capital like construction and purchase of durable equipment, were offset by the drop in inventory investments.

Government and private investments in construction increased by 2.67% and 21.3%, respectively, and durable equipment purchases increased by 14% compared to their yearago levels. These increases could have been significant had they not been pulled down by the drop in inventory levels.

The decline in inventory may have been caused by the recent power shortage problems that plagued the country. All major sectors of the industry were severely affected by power interruptions which brought to extremely low levels production of raw materials and finished products.

Suppliers of both raw materials and finished products could not adequately fill the surging demand because production was disrupted by power interruptions. It was reported that industry production levels went down by as much as 15% during the period covered from July to September.

The outlook for capital formation is not very promising. The recent string of events, including the fuel price hike and the coup d'etat launched by right-wing elements of the military, do not guarantee a good investment climate.

Already, investors have become anxious. Sony Corp. of Japan, for example, expressed plans to postpone the audio equipment plant it plans to build. Sony, the Japanese electronics giant, earlier planned to invest Y5 billion (U.S.\$35 million; P875 million).

Projections for the decline in share prices before the Makati and Manila Stock Exchanges reopened ranged from a conservative estimate of 8% to as much as 30%. Actual decrease in share prices across the board was reported at 20% but this was offset in mid-session as some players in the market began to bargain-hunt. Following the coup, however, the country is still treading a tightrop. "If government does not come out with serious recovery strategies to regain the trust of investors, the much-awaited economic recovery cannot possibly materialize," a stock analyst said.

**Real Investments for 3rd Quarter 1989 (in million pesos)
At constant 1972 Prices**

	3rd Qtr 1989	2nd Qtr 1989	3rd Qtr 1988
A. Fixed Capital	4,256	4,222	3,745
1. Construction	2,065	1,797	1,823
Government	807	516	786
Private	1,258	1,281	1,037
2. Durable Equipment	2,191	2,425	1,922
B. Increase in Stocks	36	104	631
Capital Formation	4,292	4,326	4,376

Source:

Economic and Social Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board

Government Tax Collection Above Target

HK1812142989 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 15 Dec 89 p 20

[By Maricor Zapata]

[Text] Government tax collections next year, especially from corporate and individual income where the bulk of government revenues come from, would not be so dampened by the recent coup attempt as many fear, Revenue Commissioner Jose U. Ong said yesterday.

Ong remained optimistic that the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) overall collection target for 1990 of P104.5 billion is still attainable. This, despite plans within the Department of Finance to reduce the government's economic growth and revenue targets in view of the effects of the coup attempt on investments and trade.

At the same time, the revenue commissioner announced in a press conference that the BIR collected a total of P75.865 billion from January to November 1989 exceeding the 11 month-goal of P72.877 billion by P2.988 billion or 4.10 percent.

Ong said for November alone, collections reached P7.122 billion, which was P909.19 million more than the month's goal of P6.213 billion.

Based on this collection trend, Ong estimated the tax collection may surpass this year's aggregate target of P79.8 billion by as much as P3 billion.

Explaining his personal view on why he thought the recent coup try would not have much adverse impact on the government revenue collection, Ong said he still believed that investors would continue to pour capital into the country.

Without much elaboration, he said, "I think there are more factors being considered by foreign investors in coming into the country...these kind of thing (coup attempt) are not the only one taken into account." [as published]

He noted that most investors who are now here are, in fact, staying.

He said more investors are expected to come in, and this, he commented, may be able to support the government original growth and revenue target.

According to Ong, the reported revisions in target of the Department of Finance are not yet official.

He stressed that government economic officials will need more time to think about a possible reduction of targets.

Reacting on some cynical remarks, Ong noted: "Now you're laughing. Last January 1, you thought we could not meet our (collection) target. (Although) it was reduced to P79.8 billion, we would even reach P81 billion (the original BIR goal for 1989)."

The BIR cumulative collection for January to November 1989, meanwhile, exceeded collection for the same period last year of P58.562 billion by P17.302 billion or 29.55 percent.

BIR records further showed that last month, tax collection surpassed that of November 1988, P5.276 billion, by P1.846 billion or 34.99 percent.

In the meantime, Ong announced that he is suspending all investigations and other tax verification processes for the Christmas season starting today up to January 6, 1990.

He said as a precautionary measure against graft and corruption, he had to suspend "all that would involve contact with taxpayers" as the yuletide season might be used as a good reason for "other kinds of gift giving" by both taxpayers and BIR examiners.

Thailand

Editorials Comment on U.S. Action in Panama

Paper Criticizes Use of Force

BK2212014589 Bangkok *BANGKOK POST* in English
22 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The Right Man—the Wrong Way"]

[Text] There is little doubt that the replacement of Panama's strongman Gen Manuel Noriega by a popularly elected president is a step forward for democracy in Latin America. Indeed an abortive coup attempt less than three months ago suggested there was dissent against the dictator even within his own military ranks, though that rebellion was subsequently crushed and its leader executed.

Gen Noriega has been a poor leader, a brutal dictator and a citizen of the lowest class. Few if any doubt the legal charges of drug trafficking against him in a US court. Whatever little international support he had crumbled last May, when he high-handedly voided the democratic presidential elections he had himself called, and literally beat the winner out of office. Even without the escalating US economic embargo against Panama, Gen Noriega had shown little leadership ability beyond control of the nation's guns.

But all these do not mean that he should be thrown out of office by a foreign force in the manner that has happened over the last two days. Although the general's provocative action in declaring war on Washington last week has been viewed as contributing to his own political demise, the US invasion nonetheless sticks out as a blatant act of armed aggression and interference in the internal affairs of Panama.

It therefore came as little surprise to see Washington's action being roundly condemned by much of the world. Though other Latin American countries might have

privately rejoiced over the prospect of Noriega's replacement, they have openly joined the chorus of condemnation. With the question of national sovereignty at stake, the Panamanians themselves also resent the US armed intervention.

US President George Bush might have gained much support at home for the Panama invasion. He was roundly criticised when he failed to order US troops to support the recent coup attempt and Americans over the past year have come to agree generally that any action against Noriega is welcome if not overdue. On the other side of the Atlantic Mrs Thatcher made it clear that she also agreed.

But Mr Bush's action in removing Noriega by the gun is still wrong in the context of international relations. Indeed the failure of the large military force to capture the Panamanian dictator—the main purpose of the operation—could seriously backfire on Washington and Mr Bush. Suddenly, Gen Noriega's role has been switched from that of malicious despot to one of underdog. There is a danger, in fact, that the resistance by the general and his supporters could cast the dictator in the role of folk hero.

Latin Americans, of course, have nearly 200 years of history on which to draw as they criticise the US intervention. Although Washington has formally renounced the 19th century Monroe Doctrine, Mr Bush has effectively invoked its spirit. Many outside Latin America are asking what gives the United States the right to intervene directly and militarily in the internal affairs of a country in the same hemisphere. The question is made all the more relevant in light of Washington's past condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

In Asia, interest in the Panamanian operation is greater than it might usually be. This is because it follows by less than a month the fast and willing military help that Mr Bush granted to Philippines President Corazon Aquino under admittedly different circumstances. This latest incident leads logically to the question of how often Mr Bush will approve such actions, and under what circumstances. Thailand's Foreign Ministry officials did not ask this question when the US ambassador informed them of the Panama operation, but they wisely refrained from supporting their American friend in this particular case.

If ever a "tinhorn dictator" needed overthrowing, it was Gen Noriega. But when the time arrives that a resort to arms is the chosen method of effecting change, outsiders should not wield the guns. The US action in Panama only proves once again that Washington's relations with its southern neighbours are likely to be as rocky in the future as they have been in the past.

Publication Urges Troop Pullout

BK2212105989 Bangkok *MATICHON* in Thai
22 Dec 89 p 8

[Editorial: "The U.S. Invasion of Panama"]

[Text] Superficially, there were not many alternatives for the United States after it was challenged by Panama. Panama declared a state of war against the United States and shot dead a U.S. military official. Panama's challenge subsequently prompted and gave U.S. President George Bush the opportunity to claim the action as a reason to attack Panama, overthrow General Manuel Noriega, and establish a new Panamanian government. In doing this, Bush wants to prove that he is not a weak leader, as he has been accused of being.

The ability to handle and overcome a series of U.S. efforts to pressure him must have made Gen Noriega feel arrogant and overconfident. The United States has accused Gen Noriega of being involved in trafficking drugs into the United States, and he was indicted in U.S. courts on drug conspiracy and racketeering charges. Since the latter part of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan's era, the United States has exerted economic pressure on Panama, but has never been able to defeat him.

Only a few months ago, there was a coup attempt against Noriega. The United States participated in the attempt, but failed to follow through to the end, resulting in the failure of the coup. President George Bush was strongly criticized for being unable to overthrow Gen Noriega. This literally lit the fire of anger in George Bush's mind, and simultaneously caused Gen Noriega to feel arrogant and overconfident, and to feel that Panama belonged to him alone.

However, Bush's decision to send U.S. military forces to overthrow the government of another country and to establish another government is a violation of the United Nations Charter. Once the UN Charter is violated, countries should oppose the offending action without any exceptions. Most countries opposed the Soviet invasions of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Afghanistan, and the Vietnamese occupation of Phnom Penh.

Vietnam invaded and occupied Phnom Penh, established a new government, and threw out the old government, the Khmer Rouge. Vietnam claimed that it was legitimate for it to overthrow the savage Khmer Rouge government, which had killed millions of Cambodian people. Although the world accepts that the Khmer Rouge government is a savage government, most countries do not accept Vietnam's violation of the UN Charter in sending its troops to overthrow the government of another country.

The same principle applies to the case of Gen Noriega, who has been accused by the United States of involvement in drug trafficking and of being an influential Mafia type, who has ordered his subordinates and gangsters to carry out operations to maintain his political power and influence in Panama. Although Gen Noriega is really vicious as accused, it is not at all legitimate for the United States to intervene in Panama, overthrow Gen Noriega, and establish a new government.

Under the same principle, the world opposed the Soviet invasions of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Afghanistan, as well as the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia. The world should therefore also oppose the US action of attacking Panama. The United States should withdraw its troops from Panama quickly, and allow the Panamanians to solve their own problems and handle their own internal affairs.

Killing of Civilians Questioned

*BK2212130989 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
22 Dec 89 p 8*

[Editorial: "A Question to the United States"]

[Text] Nobody imagined that the United States would make such a swift decision on the military invasion of Panama. What happened reminded the world of the Chinese invasion of Tibet and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

We don't think this incident is another display of might by the superpowers. The United States, it seems, has chosen the right moment to strike at Panama, at a time when its rival, the Soviet Union, is adopting a more flexible attitude and reaching out for contacts with the capitalist world.

Looking at Panama from the U.S. perspective, it is a neighbor state that has been causing uneasiness for the United States for a long time. This small country has been a thorn in the U.S. side, with its dictatorial leader, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, known for his despicable drug-trafficking activities, being responsible for the flow of narcotics into the United States and causing American people to turn into drug addicts. Noriega also ruled the country as a dictator, giving no democracy to the people, contrary to what the United States wanted.

Even worse, Gen Noriega and his party made clear their antagonistic attitude toward the U.S. Government and the American people. Americans, both civilian and military, have been assaulted, despite the fact that those American people were helpful and vital in bringing progress to Panama.

President Ronald Reagan, while he was still in office, had to patiently put up with the arrogance of Gen Noriega. The present U.S. leader, President George Bush, must have reached the limit of his endurance when challenged by the Panamanian National Assembly, which declared war on the United States. He therefore sent troops to take Panama, and to do what the United States thinks is right—to reorganize Panama's administrative system, making it democratic and abolishing dictatorship. This is what the United States once tried to do in Indochina. What is different now is that Panama holds more direct interest to the United States.

The reason the U.S. invaded Panama was to get rid of the old regime and establish a new system which is pro-U.S.

Still, there is one question to be answered: Why has the United States had to kill innocent civilians in Panama? Couldn't it just deal with Noriega alone?

Vietnam

PRC 'Condemned' for Air Base on Paracels

BK2212084489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0833 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 22 (AFP)—Vietnam Friday condemned China for having built an air base on the disputed Paracel Islands, an archipelago off the Vietnamese coast annexed by China in 1974. "This act by China violates not only the territorial sovereignty of Vietnam, but creates a major source of concern for other countries in the region," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Ho The Lan said. She cited unidentified "foreign sources" as having reported the building of the base on the Paracels, 350 kilometers (220 miles) off the coast of Da Nang, central Vietnam, and until 1974 under control of forces from the now-defunct Republic of Vietnam.

Mrs. Lan also accused China of "various forms of propaganda between April and November to establish sovereignty over the Spratly Islands," another disputed archipelago in the South China Sea. The strategically located Spratlys are 400 kms (250 miles) off Vietnam's eastern coast and 1,500 kms (940 miles) from China, and are claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines and Malaysia.

China occupied seven of the low-lying reefs that make up the Spratlys in March 1988 after a naval battle in which Vietnam—which controls most of the archipelago—said it lost three men killed and 70 missing.

"Vietnam reaffirms once again its sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly archipelagos and insists on peaceful negotiations to achieve a settlement," the spokeswoman said. "The concerned parties must refrain from all acts likely to aggravate the situation." She would not confirm a report in the WEN WEI PO, a pro-Beijing Hong Kong newspaper, that China was also building an air base in the part of the Spratlys under its control.

Cooperation With Soviets Expanded in Building

BK1712042489 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] The SRV-USSR governmental level committee for economic and technical building cooperation held its sixth meeting on building and construction materials in Hanoi recently. The two sides discussed measures to speed up and improve work at various projects which include the Bim Son cement factory, the Bac Cau glass factory, and the Son Mai prefabricated-concrete block factory built with Soviet assistance. The two sides agreed to continue helping the Bac Cau glass factory to produce glass of various sizes, and the Son Mai factory to produce large-size concrete blocks for 10-12-storied building.

On 15 December the two sides signed a work memorandum. Minister of Building Ngo Xuan Loc attended the signing ceremony and spoke cordially to the Soviet working group.

Cooperation Pacts Signed With Ukraine Delegates

BK2012160489 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 20—A delegation of Zaporzhye Province of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic has paid a visit to its twinned southern coastal province of Hau Giang.

During its stay, the Soviet delegation attended the 10th anniversary of the Vietnam-Soviet Union Friendship Association of Hau Giang, and signed a number of agreements on economic and cultural cooperation between the two provinces. It presented Hau Giang Province with four tractors and a quantity of machine parts, notebooks, cloth and other consumer goods.

At present there are 39 chapters of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association at institutions, schools and enterprises in Hau Giang.

Cartographic Agreement With Foreign Countries

BK2012161889 Hanoi VNA in English 1533 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 20—Vietnam today signed documents here on cartographic and topographic cooperation with the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Cambodia for the coming period of time.

Signatories were Nguyen Van Su and Vu Nghiem, respectively director and deputy director of the Vietnam Department of Cartography and Topography; and Andrej Szymczak, head of the Polish cartography and topography service; Inrich Vgorniaski, head of the Slovak department of cartography and topography (Czechoslovakia); Styslovich Bogdas, representative of the Soviet department of cartography and topography; and Huon Savang, representative of the border committee of the State of Cambodia.

Under the document signed between Vietnam and the State of Cambodia, the two countries will continue to accelerate all necessary work for completing the delineation of their common border.

On this occasion, the Soviet Union and the State of Cambodia also reached an agreement on their cartographic and topographic cooperation.

Vo Chi Cong Addresses Assembly Head Delegates

Installment One

BK2012112089 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Dec 89

["Part one" of address entitled: "Renovate the Party's Leadership Over the National Assembly, the Highest

State Organ of Power" by Vo Chi Cong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam's Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of State, at 15 December meeting with head delegates of National Assembly deputies attending the Sixth Session of the Eighth National Assembly; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrades: Before touching on our problems, I would like to present to you some opinions on the situation in some socialist countries.

1. The Situation in Some Socialist Countries

The socialist countries, whether they are carrying out reform or not, are meeting with acute difficulties at different levels. Some are facing serious crises on all the economic, social, and political planes. Swift and complicated developments are taking place in a number of countries where the communist parties' leading role has become the target of attack and is being neutralized by antisocialist political forces.

It should be realized that the crises in the socialist countries lie in the context of the general crisis of the world since the 1970's. That was the time when the scientific and technological revolution as well as international exchange and cooperation developed vigorously toward a high degree of internationalization, when the political consciousness of the people in the socialist countries had reached an ever higher level, and the information explosion began in the world. The imperialist and developed capitalist countries were faced with no other alternative than to vigorously promote the scientific and technological revolution and to restructure their economic mechanism. Thanks to this, since 1982 they have gradually come out of the crisis.

Meanwhile, the socialist countries were slow to adapt to the situation and to correct their mistakes. Not until the late 1970's and mid-1980's did only a few countries embark on restructuring. Many East European countries, however, did not conduct reforms, restructuring, or renovation. As a result, some are now coping passively with crises that have flared up beyond their expectations.

We should continue to study the situation in the socialist countries in order to make a correct evaluation in accordance with the renovation viewpoint.

Through the developments in a number of the above-mentioned socialist countries, we can initially notice that the crises have their objective and subjective causes and that each country has its own historic characteristics.

Generally speaking, there have been the following causes:

1. First of all, in a number of socialist countries, besides their great achievements and strengths, the communist parties in their leadership have seriously violated socialist democracy and violated the principle of democratic centralism in party life; have alienated themselves from the masses; have been slow in sensing and meeting

the masses' aspirations; have made light of the people's role; and have failed to understand and to win the support of the masses. Some mass organizations of the party have even reacted to the party's leadership.

2. The communist parties committed errors because of subjectivism and voluntarism; seriously violated the objective and universal laws on social development; did not care to develop the commodity economy; and failed to resolve the contradictions according to the law on the conformity between the relations of production and the character and level of the productive forces. The economic mechanism remained heavily bureaucratic and dependent on subsidies. International cooperation relations were late to expand in accordance with the new trend.

Those mistakes have limited the inherent superiority of socialism, dampened the working people's ardor, and eroded the masses' confidence in the leading role of the communist parties. Although the contradictions arising inside the socialist regime are not antagonistic ones, they have developed into antagonistic contradictions because they were not resolved in an appropriate manner.

In the process of restructuring, reform, or renovation according to the socialist principle, which is the irrevocable trend, practical results have not been achieved owing to either inappropriate methods and steps or half-baked measures, conservatism, and inertia, thus only causing the socioeconomic situation to further deteriorate.

Noteworthy is that the majority of the socialist countries have clearly seen their old mistakes; namely, that socialist construction cannot follow a common and old-fashioned model. The important thing is for the communist parties in all countries to master the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism and to apply them to the concrete realities of their own countries in building socialism. At present, no new model has taken shape, so all the countries are still groping and experimenting on their own. Therefore, they may be right or wrong. In fact, nobody can say he has the truth in hand. Here lies the crisis in theory and ideology.

3. According to documents of various parties, a segment of party cadres and members in a number of socialist countries has committed many negative acts, such as corruption, giving themselves special rights and privileges, ethical degeneration, absence of self-criticism and criticism, all of which have eroded the confidence of the masses in the party leadership.

4. Imperialism and international reactionaries, who have always sought to oppose revolution and oppose the socialist countries by all means, now see the current situation as a golden opportunity to make the best of the socialist countries' mistakes and difficulties. They are resorting to a variety of schemes and tricks to interfere and materialize their peaceful evolution strategy. This is a lesson to which our party has to pay particular attention.

The bourgeois liberal and democratic organizations and tendencies are also taking advantage of this situation to enhance their influence and to attack socialism. The crisis in some socialist countries is badly affecting the whole socialist system, including our country, and the whole international communist and workers movement and the national liberation movement. But this is not the first time socialism has experienced a crisis. It has undergone many difficult stages and also crises, but it has stood firm and continued to develop.

This is a good opportunity for imperialism and international reactionaries to intensify their attacks against revolution and the socialist countries. However, their capabilities are limited, and they cannot do whatever they want; because imperialism itself is torn by crisis and is weakening, while the internal contradictions of the capitalist system are becoming more acute with each passing day. Their scheme of promoting peaceful evolution in the socialist countries cannot be easily implemented. By analyzing the situation in a fundamental way, we can clearly see that the economic, social, and political basis of the exploiter class no longer exists in the socialist countries. Materially, socially, politically, ideologically, and ethically, socialism has struck such deep roots in these countries that it can hardly be eradicated.

If the socialist countries persist in their staunch struggle; overcome step by step their errors and shortcomings; correctly lead the restructuring, reform, and renovation; appropriately and timely solve the nonantagonistic contradictions; and overcome the crisis, they can take new steps of development in quality, regain the people's confidence, consolidate the party's leading role, and go forward.

On the basis of the practical experience of our country, our party has resolutely led the implementation of the line of comprehensive and uniform renovation. However, it has held fast to the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism and has used steps and methods suitable for the characteristics of our country. First of all our party has concentrated on renovation in the economic field while steadily carrying out renovation step by step in the political field. Thanks to this, notable initial progress has been achieved in the economic and political situation, and the party's prestige has been gradually restored.

Our cause of renovation still has a long way to go. Therefore, we must mobilize the entire party and people to persistently implement the renovation policy in a correct fashion. By so doing, we will certainly achieve success.

Installment Two

BK2112054989 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Conclusion of address by Vo Chi Cong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of State, at 15 December meeting with head delegates of the

National Assembly deputies attending the Sixth Session of the Eighth National Assembly; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] 2. Renovating the Party's Leadership Is a Factor Deciding the Success of the Renovation Process in Our Country

Our party has at an early date adopted the line for renovation, and is taking the lead in directing our people's implementation of this line. The revolutionary process of the past half century and more and the realities of 3 years' renovation have shown that our party is the sole force for leading our people in carrying out the revolution and for leading the state and society of Vietnam as well as the renovation process in our country. The party's leadership is a historical necessity over the past 60 years; it has been frequently proven by realities in our struggle to win one victory after another and has won the confidence of the people at home and praises from abroad.

We must unequivocally reaffirm that the party's leadership has always been and will continue to be a decisive factor for the success of our country's revolution and of the renovation process at present. But at the same time, it is necessary to stress that in order to guarantee certain success for the renovation process the party must first of all renovate its leadership. This is a very urgent demand of renovation if we are to continue moving the socialist revolution in our country forward.

The party must renovate both the contents and methods of its leadership. The party's function of leadership consists of setting forth a platform, strategies, and basic objectives and adopting orientations, viewpoints, and major policies on domestic and foreign affairs in order to guide the activities of the state and all the people. The party controls the implementation of the set lines, trains cadres and assigns them to party organs, grooms cadres and recommends them for key state positions, and closely directs the work related to state cadres, but respects state procedures for the recruitment, assignment, and removal of cadres.

The party leads by persuasion, education, and exemplariness of party cadres and members. The party operates within the framework of the law and scrupulously abides by the law. It is necessary to bear in mind that the party is an organ of leadership and not an organ of power or management. The party controls administrative power and leads society through such instruments as the state machinery and mass societies, and through party lines and viewpoints which are institutionalized into state law for application to life.

Renovating the party's leadership absolutely does not mean negating or lessening the party's role. However, the party, from central to local and grass-roots levels, must resolutely avoid bureaucratism; alienating itself from the masses; taking over the work of the state and of administrative organs at various levels; being bossy, inflexible,

and arbitrary in all issues; or, as has happened in many instances, neglecting and in effect abandoning its role of leadership.

To renovate its leadership, the party shall create all conditions for achieving socialist democracy and promoting the genuine right to mastery of the people in all aspects of social life. The party shall continue broadening democracy in economic, political, cultural, social, and other fields. Only by broadening democracy can we create a great driving power from among the masses to push forward the process of renovation.

We dare not broaden democracy unless we have a thorough understanding of the mass viewpoint, because revolution is the cause of the masses. All power belongs to the masses. The National Assembly is the highest state organ of power and also the organ representing the people's power.

One of the most important political issues is the need to ensure true democratic rights in the election of people to or recommendation of candidates for various party and state organs and political or social organizations.

In the election of leaders to various organizations under the political system, the party only introduces the criteria for selection in order to ensure that all strategies for each revolutionary stage are successfully fulfilled, while these organizations themselves and their members are to choose and decide on the eligible candidates. The party will recommend certain persons for key positions of the state, when necessary; but it will do so only for consideration and selection by the people.

In all its activities, our party must consider the people as the base and must develop and bring into play the people's right to mastery. This is people's democracy and socialist democracy. We must let the people know, discuss, decide, perform, and control.

Meanwhile, in the process of fostering democracy, we must prevent extreme democracy and the tendency toward bourgeois, undisciplined, and anarchic democracy. Democracy must, on the principle of democratic centralism, be subjected to party leadership and help strengthen the socialist legal system.

To the state organs of power in localities, the law on the election of people's councils and the law on the organization of people's councils and people's committees promulgated recently have somewhat reflected the spirit of that democracy. The results of the people's council elections at three levels show that the people's democratic rights have basically been exercised.

It must also be stressed that we should only broaden democracy at the basic level. This is because in some localities, democracy has not yet been instilled or satisfactorily fostered and the employment of pressure and imposition of will still exist. Here and there, disrespect for the right of citizens to vote as well as for the results of

consultative meetings are still prevalent, and the exertion of pressure in the compilation of namelists of voters and recommendation of candidates are still reported.

In exercising its right to leadership, the party must absolutely not put pressure or impose its will in personnel work in whatever form. The party committees at local levels must truly renovate their leadership over the people's councils at corresponding levels. The activities of the people's councils at all levels must be truly democratic in deliberating and deciding important socioeconomic issues in their localities in the interests of the people and in line with the standpoints and policies of the party and the state.

Only by fostering democracy can we ensure unity and create a vigorous driving power in directing and implementing all standpoints and policies of the party. Achieving unity and single-mindedness in the entire party and people constitutes the decisive condition for our success in all domains as well as in the process of renovation.

3. Contents of Renovation of the Party's Leadership Over the National Assembly, the Highest State Organ of Power

Speaking of renovating the party's leadership over the National Assembly, first of all, one must realize the need to clearly define the functions and duties of the party and of the National Assembly. The National Assembly is the highest representative of the people's right to mastery. Thus, the party should create conditions for the National Assembly to truly represent the people in deciding on important issues concerning national development and the people's welfare. The renovation of the party's leadership must be reflected through the National Assembly's activities, role, function, and position.

Regarding the right to make decisions on the socioeconomic development plan, the National Assembly has an important task to carry out in this area because of its power to make decisions on socioeconomic issues. At the fifth session of the National Assembly, we adopted initial measures aimed at ensuring democracy and a renovative spirit for our debates and decisions on state plans and budget. From now on, we will make greater efforts to broaden democracy.

The Political Bureau only provides major orientations and tasks and sets forth the most important objectives so as to guarantee steady development of the economic strategy. Next, it is the duty of the Council of Ministers to work out the details about contents of the national economic development program, norms to be fulfilled, measures for project implementation, and to submit reports to the National Assembly for decision. The National Assembly is fully empowered to consider and make decisions on the socioeconomic development program and state budget planning.

It is necessary to thoroughly understand the guidelines on renovating planning in conditions of promoting a multisectorial commodity economy. At the same time,

due importance should be attached to the state-run economic sector and steps must be taken to help it play a leading role in the national economy.

The democratic right to make decisions on the socioeconomic development plan is exercised not only through formulation and approval or disapproval but also through supervision over project implementation. Once the National Assembly has made decisions on the socioeconomic development plan and state budget, it is the responsibility of the Council of Ministers to organize project implementation.

Regarding legislative work, it is the party who exercises leadership over socioeconomic affairs mainly through the state and by means of law enforcement agencies and strict implementation of the socialist legal system. Once they have been systematized into state laws, the party's major standpoints and policies shall become regulations and rules governing the conduct and actions of all members of the society. The National Assembly plays an extremely important role in this area, because it ratifies the Constitution and the legal system and exercises the right to act as the supreme organ of control over the implementation of the Constitution and the law.

Efforts are also needed to renovate the preparation and promulgation of legal documents. Based on the party's major standpoints tailored for each specific stage of development, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers should prepare legal documents to be submitted to the National Assembly for consideration. The party only sets forth major standpoints and principles that need to be reflected in the legal system, whereas the decision to promulgate specific legal documents rests with the National Assembly. In order to guarantee conditions for this task to bring about good results, the various organs in charge should thoroughly prepare draft laws and create conditions for sociopolitical organizations and mass societies to contribute their suggestions, depending on the characteristics of each draft law. Once laws and regulations have been promulgated, related legal documents must be readily available so guidance over law enforcement can be timely provided.

Our National Assembly meets only twice a year. Time is limited, while the situation calls for the promulgation of a large number of legal documents. Therefore, a tight schedule is needed to discuss and adopt the various draft laws. All work activities must be rationally arranged so as to ensure democracy and create conditions for the National Assembly to adopt a large number of draft laws with good quality. On the other hand, in their legislative work, the National Assembly and the Council of State must try to reflect the democratic nature of our state's legislation. The Council of State now has to pass many regulations to meet the urgent demands of socioeconomic management as required by the renovation process; but these regulations must be gradually upgraded into bills of law to ensure that the National Assembly will be the chief organ of legislation. Only through this will true democracy

be possible and will our National Assembly be able to correctly assume its role and function.

4. Enhance the Responsibility of the National Assembly and Continue To Renovate Its Work Methods

Renovating the party's leadership over the activities of the National Assembly is meant to create conditions for the National Assembly to develop its efficiency and also to place greater demands on this highest state organ of power. To meet the situation and tasks, National Assembly deputies are first of all required to further enhance their responsibility in forming opinions and discussing and deciding on major problems of the country. It is necessary to renovate the work processes and methods of the National Assembly. All issues must be carefully prepared before being presented to the National Assembly. The standing committees of the National Assembly must work realistically to put forward issues that must be presented to the National Assembly for deliberation and discussion so that correct conclusions and decisions can be reached. To do this, it is necessary to intensify the activities and working duration of National Assembly committees and to reinforce the standing bodies of these committees with capable cadres so as to satisfactorily examine the various draft laws and regulations and prepare well the reports to be presented to the National Assembly.

A study should be made to organize activities under diverse forms during each session so that National Assembly deputies can exchange opinions and present their arguments. Efforts must be made to provide deputies with the necessary information on the issues presented to the National Assembly so they will have a basis for deliberation. During deliberation, the deputies are free to make their statements and present their opinions about the issues to be decided upon by the National Assembly. When there are divergent opinions that need deliberation, it is necessary to avoid the attitude of finding fault with one another. In democratic discussions, we must learn the habit of attentively hearing opinions that contradict our own. Frank debates are needed to reach an agreement. The principle of democratic centralism will finally prevail, and a majority decision will be upheld with the minority yielding to the majority. When a majority decision has been adopted, everyone must abide by it. No one has the right to dispute a resolution thus adopted.

Renovation is a new undertaking of our party and people. It is a process of step-by-step advancement that tolerates neither impatience nor sluggishness. We will study and draw upon experience as we go along. The comrade National Assembly deputies play an important role in contributing to the renovation of the party's leadership over the National Assembly's activities. You should fully understand this spirit in order to renovate the operation and activities of our country's highest state organ of power.

Dear comrades: The comrade chairman of the National Assembly has clearly pointed out the issues of national concern that the National Assembly will discuss and decide upon at the coming session. These issues have been prepared with much effort and care. However, there still remain differences of opinion on some issues between the delegations of National Assembly deputies and between socio-political organizations. In the spirit of renovation, promoting democracy, and upholding the sense of responsibility before the people, let all of us, National Assembly deputies, join together in discussing them and reaching a decision.

May you, comrades, be all in good health, and may the coming session be a success!

Vo Chi Cong Speaks at Military Award Ceremony

*BK2112141589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2330 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[“Text” of speech by SRV Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong at 19 December Hanoi ceremony awarding “Hero of the People’s Armed Forces” title to 20 units and 11 individuals in recognition of their achievements in national defense and economic construction—recorded]

[Text] Comrades representing Hero [title-winning] units; military and labor heroes; representatives of hero families; comrades:

Fighting under the glorious banner of the party and great President Ho Chi Minh, over the past 40 years many generations of cadres and combatants of the People’s Army have succeeded one another in taking up arms to fight for national independence and unification, to firmly defend the socialist Vietnamese fatherland, and to fulfill their lofty internationalist mission.

Absolutely loyal to the fatherland, the people, and socialism, our armed forces have been highly heroic, resourceful, and creative. With their determination to fight and win, they have fulfilled all their assigned missions, overcome all difficulties, and defeated all enemies. [applause]

Our party, state, and people are very pleased by and also proud of those splendid military exploits of our People’s Army and its constantly rapid growth.

On the occasion of the glorious traditional day of the people’s armed forces—namely the 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People’s Army [VPA] or the festive day of all-people national defense—the Council of State decides to confer the “Hero of the Armed Forces and the Labor Hero” titles on 20 units and 11 individuals of the armed forces in recognition of their particularly outstanding achievements in combat, in economic construction, and in national defense and construction. This also constitutes a source of pride of our entire Army and people.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers, I heartily commend various Hero units and heroes for their meritorious deeds. I also heartily praise various hero families of the armed forces for their great contributions to the cause of building the armed forces, consolidating national defense, building socialism, thereby glorifying the traditions of the heroic Army and heroic nation. [applause]

On this occasion, I warmly congratulate the glorious tradition and achievements scored by the VPA over the past 40 years and extend my best regards to the entire cadres, combatants, and national defense workers, including those comrades who have been discharged or have retired.

I express my deep gratitude to those heroes, fallen combatants, war invalids, sick soldiers, families rendering meritorious deeds to the revolution, and families with many children participating in the building of the armed forces for having, over the past some decades, heroically fought, made sacrifices, contributed greatly to the cause of national liberation, national defense, and socialist construction and fulfilled their internationalist mission.

Dear comrades, with more than half a century struggling under the party leadership, our people have scored many great revolutionary achievements, and our country has achieved total independence and freedom in the advance toward socialism along the path chosen by our party and Uncle Ho.

Implementing the renovative lines of the sixth party congress, our Army and people have scored encouraging and important initial results. As the cause of building and defending the socialist fatherland is creating many very heavy tasks for the entire party, Army, and people, our Army must always be alert, vigilant, and combat-ready; must maintain the initiative in dealing victoriously with all acts of sabotage and aggression of the enemy; and must strive to truly become a backbone force for building a steadfast all-people national defense and for defending the fatherland.

Our party, state, and people highly appreciate the sacrifices and sufferings endured by the cadres and combatants of the People’s Army during the past wars of resistance as well as in the current cause of national construction and defense.

In peace-time national construction, although cadres and combatants of the People’s Army still have to remain on the forefront of national defense, I am convinced that, with the heroic history and glorious tradition of the People’s Army, our armed forces will remain forever a loyal and reliable force of the party, state, and people. [applause]

Let Hero units and heroes develop their revolutionary heroism, fine tradition, and achievements; be always modest; strive to steel themselves in all areas; improve

their revolutionary and ethical qualities; outstandingly fulfill all the missions entrusted to them by the party and the state; and be worthy of the concern, solicitous care, trust, and love of the party, the state, the armed forces, and the people.

I hope that the families of heroes and fallen combatants will always maintain and develop their glorious traditions, make greater contributions to the state, exemplarily comply with party and state policies and lines, and strive to become model families and model citizens in the cause of national construction and defense.

May you, comrades, enjoy good health and score more achievements so as to be worthy of the noble "Hero" title conferred on you by the state. [applause]

Vo Chi Cong Letter to VPA Cadres, Combatants

*BK2112133489 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 20 Dec 89*

[“Text” of Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong’s letter to national defense cadres, combatants, workers, and personnel on the 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People’s Army; date of letter not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrades:

On the occasion of the commemoration of the 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People’s Army [VPA], on behalf of the party and state, I cordially convey my kind regards and warm greetings to all national defense cadres, combatants, workers, and personnel, and to former members of the VPA who have retired or been transferred to other branches.

The Vietnamese party and people are always profoundly grateful to the fallen combatants, wounded and sick soldiers and their families, as well as families that contributed meritorious services to the revolution and those whose sons and daughters have joined the Army. These are people who for the past several decades have valiantly fought, sacrificed, and made great contributions to the cause of national liberation; participated in national construction and defense; and fulfilled our lofty international obligation.

Coming into being as the red self-defense units, and then the Ba To and Bac Son guerrilla forces, and the Vietnam liberation army, led and educated by the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and President Ho Chi Minh—and loved, supported, and assisted by the people—the VPA has consistently developed its strength and scored glorious victories. It courageously engaged in many wars of resistance with acute hardship and countless sacrifices. Using only bamboo sticks and swords at its initial stage, our VPA has strengthened its solidarity with the people and has defeated all aggressive enemies—some having the most powerful economic and military strength.

The VPA was established by the people; as a result, it will fight for the people and is ready to fight selflessly for the

cause of national liberation, for the people’s bountiful and happy life, and for socialism and the lofty international obligation.

The VPA is always a firm base of the dictatorship of the proletariat. It has won the confidence and admiration of our entire party and people. In recognition of its great efforts and contributions to the nation as well as its outstanding achievements, the state on two occasions awarded it with the Gold Star Order, the highest distinction of our state. Thousands of officers, combatants, and Army units have been conferred with the people’s armed forces heroic titles.

Dear comrades, our people should take advantage of the newly gained peaceful condition to shift to the stage of national reconstruction in accordance with the Sixth CPV Congress’ resolution. However, imperialism and international reactionary forces have not given up their dark schemes to oppose our people’s revolutionary cause and that of the Lao and Cambodian peoples.

The people’s armed forces should heighten vigilance; consistently improve education and training to enhance their socialist awareness, political background, commanding ability, and specialized technical skills; and strive to increase the combined strength of the armed forces and that of the all-people national construction and defense. They should stand ready to cope with all circumstances, satisfactorily engage in productive labor, and participate in economic building and carrying out international obligations; thereby being worthy of Uncle Ho’s soldiers title.

Fully implementing esteemed President Ho Chi Minh’s teaching, our Army—faithful to the party, nation, and people—is ready to fight and sacrifice for the fatherland’s independence and freedom and for socialism. It will fulfill all tasks, overcome all difficulties, and defeat all enemies.

I wish you, comrades, nothing but success.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations to you all.

[Signed] Vo Chi Cong

Party, State Leaders Attend VPA Meeting

*BK2112143489 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 21 Dec 89*

[Report on “grand meeting” held in Hanoi on 21 December to mark the Vietnam People’s Army’s 45th anniversary and the All-People National Defense Festival—with portions recorded]

[Excerpt] This morning, in Hanoi, the Vietnam Fatherland Front of the Hanoi Municipality held a grand meeting to mark the 45th anniversary of the Vietnam People’s Army [VPA] and to celebrate the All-People National Defense Festival.

Attending the meeting were Comrades Vo Chi Cong, Pham Van Dong, Do Muoi, Le Quang Dao, Nguyen Huu Tho, General Le Duc Anh, Nguyen Thanh Binh, Vo Van

Kiet, Vo Nguyen Giap, Mai Chi Tho, Dam Quang Trung, Pham The Duyet, Nguyen Thi Dinh, Doan Khue, Nguyen Quyet; many other party, state, and Army leaders; representatives of various departments and branches of the party and state and of mass organizations at the center and in Hanoi; representatives of the armed forces heroes and heroines; representatives of the diplomatic missions; military attaches of foreign embassies; and local and foreign press correspondents in Hanoi.

Amid the enthusiastic atmosphere greeting the 45th anniversary of the VPA and the first celebration of the All-People National Defense Festival, Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho delivered an address to open the meeting. He said:

[Begin recording] Comrades and friends: Born in the movement of the people's revolutionary struggle for independence and freedom and for socialism, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and great President Ho Chi Minh, the VPA has quickly developed, ceaselessly matured, and scored glorious victories. Over the past 45 years, generation after generation of cadres and combatants have succeeded one another in taking up arms to fight. Together with the entire people, they have vanquished all cruel aggressor enemies—winning back national independence and reunification, firmly defending the sacred borders of the socialist Vietnamese homeland, and fulfilling their glorious international duty toward the revolutions of fraternal Laos and Cambodia.

Under the light of Marxism-Leninism and under the ever-victorious banner of the glorious CPV; enjoying the wholehearted affection and protection of the people throughout the country; having the sympathy and assistance of the fraternal and friendly countries, especially the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist community; and supported and encouraged by the peace- and justice-loving peoples of the world; the People's Army, together with the Vietnamese people's armed forces, have carried on and strongly developed the national traditions of patriotism and staunch struggle against foreign invaders, thereby writing glorious pages of history of the Vietnamese nation in the new era.

Our party, state, and people are very proud of the brilliant exploits and incessant development and strengthening of our Army, and are firmly convinced that our Army will resolutely maintain and bring into full play the revolutionary character and fine tradition of Uncle Ho's soldiers—of an Army boundlessly loyal to the party and people, to the fatherland and socialism, an Army that is always worthy of Uncle Ho's teachings and praises. I hereby declare open the celebration of the VPA's 45th anniversary and the All-People National Defense Festival. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Do Muoi Addresses Meeting

BK2212065789 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 21 Dec 89

["Text" of speech by Council of Ministers Chairman Do Muoi at 21 December Hanoi meeting to mark Vietnam People's Army's 45th founding anniversary and all-people national defense festival—recorded]

[Text] Dear Comrades and Friends: Today, our entire party, people, and heroic armed forces solemnly commemorate the 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] in an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm and pride. Today also marks the first celebration of the all-people national defense festival by our party, state, and people.

Born and nurtured in the movement of the people's revolutionary struggle under our party's leadership, the VPA has developed and matured step by step and has become a people's Army strong enough to firmly defend the socialist Vietnamese fatherland. [applause]

The 45-year history of combat and growth of our Army is closely linked with our people's heroic struggle for independence, freedom, national reunification, and socialism.

Organized, led, educated, and trained by the party and by venerated Uncle Ho, the VPA has consistently developed its strength, coming into being as the red self-defense units participating in the Soviet-Nghe Tinh movement and then the Bac Son guerrilla forces, the Nam Ky guerrilla forces, the National Salvation Forces, the Vietnam Armed Propaganda Liberation Forces, the Ba To guerrilla forces, and numerous guerrilla and self-defense forces operating in other resistance war zones.

By order of President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnam Armed Propaganda Liberation Forces were founded on 22 December 1944 as the first military organization of our regular Army. The date marks both the founding of the VPA and our armed forces and people's traditional festival.

The VPA comes from, belongs to, and fights for the people and will remain so forever. Ever since its birth, the VPA has maintained a blood-sealed relationship with the people and always enjoyed the latter's wholehearted affection and protection. Our Army has developed the revolutionary nature of the working class and the unsubmitive tradition of our people. The strength of our Army stems from the endless capabilities and potentials of the working class and people of different ethnic groups under the party's leadership as well as from the glorious traditions and valuable experiences that our people have gained through thousands of years of antforeign aggression struggle. Our Army also develops its strength from the socialist system in our beloved Vietnamese fatherland; the militant solidarity between the peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia; the cooperation and assistance of the fraternal socialist countries, first of all

the Soviet Union; and the support of revolutionary and peace-loving forces worldwide.

Developing its aggregate strength and together with the entire people, the VPA has defeated many enemy aggressors with great economic and military potentials. Our Army has also fulfilled its glorious internationalist duty toward the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

In that hard, fierce yet glorious struggle, our Army has always demonstrated its noble quality and tradition of loyalty to the socialist fatherland, strict adherence to the party's revolutionary lines, devotion to the people, and faithfulness to friends throughout the world. Our people take great pride in such an Army.

On the occasion of this glorious anniversary, we express our boundless gratitude to esteemed President Ho Chi Minh who organized, built, led, educated, and fostered our Army. We always remember and are grateful to all the fatherland's beloved sons and countrymen who fought valiantly and sacrificed their lives during the struggle to seize power and in the two antiwars of resistance against the French and Americans and to those countrymen and comrades who died heroically on duty at the southwestern and northern border areas, on offshore islands, and in the fraternal Lao and Cambodian nations. We convey our warmest greetings to wounded and sick soldiers, families of fallen combatants, families who have rendered meritorious contributions to the revolution, and families of military personnel especially those with their beloved ones performing duty at the border areas and on offshore islands.

We would like to express our profound gratitude to the parties, states, peoples, and armies of our fraternal Lao and Cambodian nations which have shared weal and woe, fought shoulder to shoulder, and strengthened relations with our Army and people in the spirit of pure, faithful solidarity and friendship in the struggle against our common enemy for the independence and prosperity of each nation.

We sincerely thank the Soviet party, government, and people, other fraternal socialist countries, and friends on the five continents for their impartial encouragement and valuable support to the Vietnamese people's just struggle during the past several decades.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and all people's strata, I convey our commendations to all cadres and combatants of the main armed forces, local Army, militia and self-defense forces, and national defense workers and personnel for their efforts in developing the revolutionary heroism, overcoming difficulties and ordeals, strengthening their combat readiness, fighting courageously; participating in productive labor with a positive, diligent, and creative manner; and in studying and carrying out tasks enthusiastically to fulfill our national duty and international obligation.

I hope that you all will continue to closely coordinate with the public security and border defense forces in maintaining political security and social order and safety, thereby ensuring a happy, peaceful labor life for the people. I also hope that you comrades will consistently uphold the revolutionary characteristics, strive to fulfill all tasks entrusted by the party, state, and people; enhance forever the tradition of heroism of the VPA and the heroic Vietnamese people. [applause]

Dear Comrades, late last September, the Vietnamese volunteer Army, after completing its glorious international duty in Cambodia, returned to Vietnam. This event ushered in a new situation in the revolutionary struggle of our people, that is an unprecedented condition of peace throughout our country. In time of peace we must concentrate our efforts on building the nation, speeding up the renovation, stabilizing and gradually improving the people's daily life, and advancing further our nation's socialist revolution. This is the earnest aspiration of our entire party, people, and Army. However, building the country must be carried out along with strengthening national defense. We have to maintain this task not only because we have learned from the historic lesson in our thousand-year history of building and defending the nation, but also because the hostile forces have not given up their dark schemes against the Vietnamese revolution. Imperialism is attempting to take advantage of the difficulties facing a number of socialist countries in their restructuring, reform, and renovation to launch a new strategy aimed at undermining these countries and eliminating socialism. To realize this wicked scheme, the imperialists advocate the "peaceful evolution," apply the integrated economic, technological, political, ideological, and psychological measures against these countries while threatening to use military power, when warranted and in various forms, against these nations. This is the truth openly announced by the imperialists on many occasions.

This situation requires that the entire party, people, and armed forces remain all the more steadfast, firmly grasp party lines and policies, clearly recognize the immediate and long-term schemes of hostile forces, constantly heighten vigilance, and create a new position and strength from which to actively and effectively cope with all eventualities and firmly defend the socialist Vietnamese fatherland. Building and defending the country constitutes a law for the survival and development of our nation and the two strategic tasks of the socialist revolution in our country at present. While concentrating on economic construction, we cannot slacken vigilance and neglect the consolidation of national defense and building the Army to defend the fatherland. Beside the main duty of training to ensure combat readiness, the Army also participates in economic construction.

We must enhance the entire party's and people's awareness and sense of responsibility toward national defense. It is necessary to continue promulgating policies defining the obligations and responsibilities of socioeconomic organizations and each citizen toward national defense.

State agencies should supplement specific policies toward the Army and national defense.

Dear Comrades, in the new stage of our revolution, our people's highest interest is to have peace so that efforts can be concentrated on building and developing the economy. As pointed out in the sixth party congress' Resolution No 13 on external relations of the Political Bureau and the sixth party Central Committee's sixth plenum's resolution, one of the four key tasks for the next 3 years is to step up the renovation process in the country and preserve peace so as to create the conditions and environment for stable national development. Responsibility for this task rests with the various sectors and echelons, first of all the national defense, security, and external relations sectors.

We know that today security and development are closely related and interactive. In the age of the scientific-technological revolution and with the trend of internationalizing the world economy to a high degree, each country's independence and security is contingent on an adequate military strength and a firm politico-economic basis, as well as on broad international cooperation. At the same time, it is necessary to create a bond and mutual dependency in terms of interests. Weaknesses in the economic and national defense fields and political instability constitute grave dangers to national independence and security. By relying on an aggregate strength based on a strong economy, a stable political system, and a sufficiently strong system of national defense, and by broadening international cooperation, we will be able to increase our capability to firmly preserve peace and independence and successfully build socialism.

We will apply this strategic guideline to all of our foreign policy and international activities, thoroughly understand the motto of making more friends and fewer enemies, strive to expand our relations of international cooperation, accelerate the settlement of disputes among nations through negotiation, and promote efficient participation in the international division of labor in order to effectively support national construction and defense.

We have now completed the withdrawal of our troops from Cambodia. As for Cambodia's internal problems, they must be resolved by the Cambodians themselves. We are ready to cooperate with all parties concerned in the process of seeking a just, lasting political solution to the Cambodian issue.

We have unswervingly placed on the first rank the duties of strengthening solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia and other socialist countries. We will expand our relations with all friendly countries in the world and normalize our relations with all those countries that have long pursued a hostile policy toward our country. It is certain that such a policy will contribute to consolidating peace and security for our fatherland.

Dear Comrades: In only a few more days we will enter the year of 1990, in which we will strive to develop the

important initial results of renovation and win even greater achievements in all fields of social life. This is the year of many major anniversaries: the 60th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the 100th birth anniversary of great President Ho Chi Minh, the 45th founding anniversary of the new regime, and the 15th anniversary of the total liberation of South Vietnam and national reunification for the entire country to advance to socialism. Each of these anniversaries will give us a legitimate cause for pride and more energy for the struggle to victoriously implement all of the socioeconomic tasks and security and national defense duties.

The armed forces must make worthy contributions to the socialist patriotic emulation movement of all the people. VPA cadres and combatants must constantly forge their combat will, uphold socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism, comprehensively enhance their quality, improve their combat ability, promote democracy, uphold discipline, strengthen internal unity and solidarity with the people, firmly maintain a healthy, simple, and cultured life-style, and always raise aloft the title of Uncle Ho's soldiers to remain worthy of his praise that our troops are loyal to the party and the country and faithful to the people, always stand ready to fight and sacrifice for the homeland's independence and freedom and socialism, and can fulfill all tasks, overcome all difficulties, and defeat all enemies.

Thank you, Comrades and Friends.

1989 Rice Output Tops 20-Million-Tonne Mark

*BK2112072889 Hanoi VNA in English 0614 GMT
21 Dec 89*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 20—In 1989, Vietnam achieved an all-time high for food output in paddy equivalent, topping the 20-million-ton [metric] mark set in the state plan.

For the first time, rice production topped all the three targets set by the state for acreage (1.25 percent), productivity (2.7 percent) and output (4 percent).

Whereas in the 1970's the five-ton mark per hectare was still a target to strive for by most provinces, this year has seen An Giang Province in the Mekong River Delta reap 12 tons per hectare, and Thai Binh Province in the Red River Delta 8 tons per hectare.

Also this year, six provinces, five of them in the south and one in the north, have exceeded the one-million-ton mark in output.

For the first time in many years, Vietnam has exported more than one million tons of rice. In the past, it had to import about 750,000 tons annually.

Many factors are contributive to this achievement: A favourable weather, more investments from the state, the renovation of agricultural management, the application of a multisectorial economic policy, the use of

high-yielding rice strains, new scientific and technical advances, and a single price policy for food nation-wide.

However, as reported by the Council of Ministers at the current National Assembly session, this success is not yet a stable one, because Vietnam's agriculture is still dependent

to a large extent on weather conditions, and productivity is low because most farm work is still done by hand.

Next year, the state plans to invest more in agricultural development with the aim of producing about 22 million tons of food in rice equivalent.

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

5 Jan. 1990

